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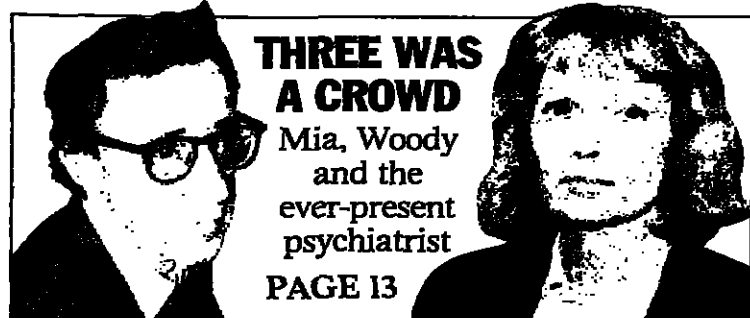
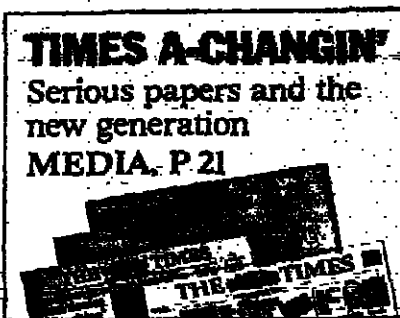


TIMES

35

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5 1997

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Weak cases would incur penalties

'No win, less fee' proposal for legal aid

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS may have to foot the bill if they pursue expensive and futile legal aid cases under plans for economies in the £1.5 billion legal aid scheme.

The rule would apply to group actions, such as claims against drug firms, and other costly disputes — often involving foreigners or the "apparently wealthy" — where legal aid bills can exceed £500,000.

Under Legal Aid Board proposals to be published this month, lawyers would have to enter a contract to conduct a case for a fixed sum, detailing the cost of each stage, and how much they will pay barristers and expert witnesses.

The board is also expected to recommend swingeing penalties for lawyers who pursue weak cases. Those who win would recover their costs as now, but losers might receive only a third of their expenses and have to bear the rest of their costs themselves.

An official said: "The contracts would be drawn up on the basis that if the lawyers are successful, they would get a lot more back than if they lose. It's about sharing the risk and making them question the merits of going on at every stage. At present, the Board carries all the cost — win or lose. But they are the lawyers, they have all the information, they are best placed to judge the merits of a case."

The proposals are the latest in the Government's attempt to curb abuse of civil legal aid — particularly by what officials call the "apparently wealthy" — which is expected

to cost nearly £700 million this year. A special unit set up in Preston to investigate suspect claims is being strengthened and being brought under the direct control of the Legal Aid Board in London. It is expected to examine up to 700 cases a year. The board is also taking over the task of means testing applicants from the Benefits Agency.

The proposed contracts would be enforced in actions which cost more than £50,000 in legal aid, such as that of a group of tranquilliser users whose case collapsed after costing some £30 million in legal aid. They would also have applied to lawyers for the German businessman Andreas Pavel, who received £500,000 in legal aid when he sued Sony Walkman in the British courts last March.

Another such case would be that of Louis Vuitton, a Portuguese businessman with extensive property interests, who has run up a legal aid bill of more than £500,000 in disputes with his former wife and mistress.

The plans are certain to infuriate the legal profession, which is already disgruntled about other cuts in both civil and criminal legal aid — including proposals for fixed fees for barristers.

Solicitors are also angry about the suggestion that the "green form scheme", under which lawyers give free initial advice to people in criminal cases, might be scrapped.

That proposal is being considered by Gary Streeter, junior minister at the Lord

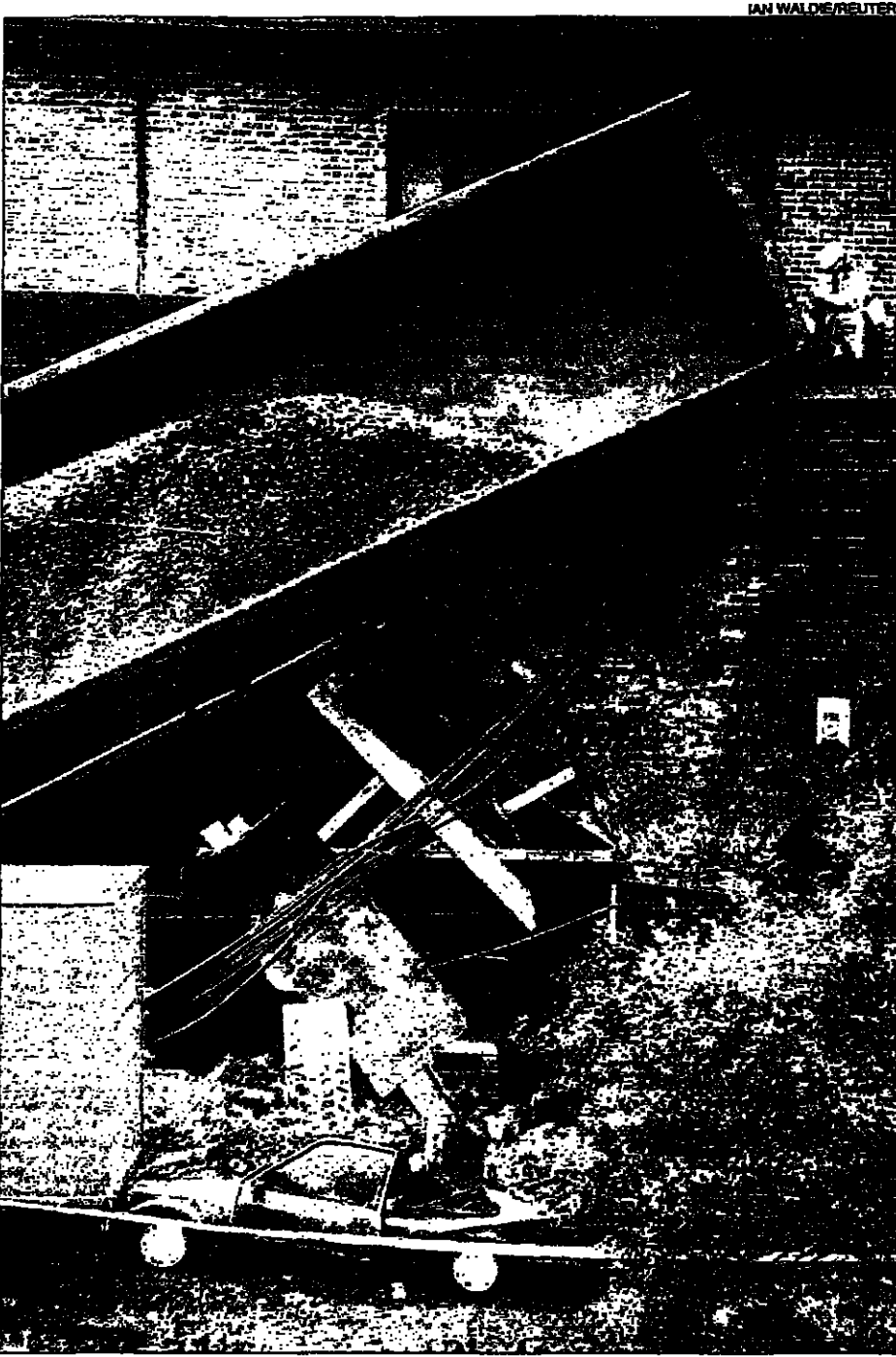
Chancellor's Department, which will face fresh criticism tomorrow over the criminal legal aid budget. A National Audit Office is expected to show that, for the fifth year running, the Comptroller and Auditor General has not approved the budget because of inadequate controls.

Labour has also pledged to cut legal aid costs. Lord Irvine of Lairg, Shadow Lord Chancellor, has said that he would "bear down hard" on the 1 per cent of cases that consumed more than £100 million of the legal aid budget.

A proposal to allow breaches of human rights to be dealt with quickly and more cheaply by British judges rather than by the European courts has found widespread support among Labour and Liberal Democrat peers.

Senior legal figures are also backing Lord Lester of Herne Hill's proposals for incorporating the European Human Rights Convention into domestic law. His Bill would require courts to interpret Acts of Parliament and the common law in accordance with the convention. It would also place a duty on ministers to explain any provision in a new Bill that appeared to be inconsistent with the convention.

Lord Lester tried to introduce a similar measure two years ago, but it was criticised on the ground that the courts would be able to strike down parliamentary statutes. His new Bill makes clear that the courts would have no such power.



Staff in the arches workshops were showered with rubble as the wagons crashed down

Four hurt as train is derailed

FOUR people were injured and there was widespread disruption to one of London's busiest commuter lines after a freight train plunged down a steep embankment yesterday. The 1,000-tonne train, which was carrying waste track ballast, came off the rails shortly after midday behind a chemicals factory in

Bexley, Kent. Two of the rear wagons crashed onto a row of workshops in railway arches under a viaduct, showering the occupants with rubble.

Four injured workers were pulled by colleagues from the crushed wreckage of the workshop units. They were taken to nearby Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup

and one was held overnight for observation. Three others were treated at the scene.

Daniel Getty, 18, said: "I was about 30ft from the bridge when I saw the back of the train rocking. It was hanging over the edge. The train juddered on for a bit then there was a big bang and it fell completely off."

Churchill in bedside vigil as Harriman fights for life

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PAMELA HARRIMAN, America's British-born Ambassador to France, was under intensive care and "close to death" in a Paris hospital last night after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

Mrs Harriman, 76, the daughter-in-law of Sir Winston Churchill who went on to become a powerful fundraiser for the US Democratic Party and a confidante of President Clinton, had a stroke on Monday night at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, where she had gone for her daily swim in the hotel pool.

Her son, Winston Churchill, the Conservative MP for Daventry, Manchester, and other members of her family were at her bedside last night at the American Hospital in Paris.

The hospital declined to comment on her condition, but senior officials in Washington said that Mrs Harriman, who has no history of health problems, had not regained consciousness.

"I wouldn't want to minimise the seriousness of the situation," said Christopher Snow, the US Embassy spokesman, adding that the "initial diagnosis is that the Ambassador suffered a cerebral haemorrhage," which can block the blood supply to the brain.

President Clinton, a friend of Mrs Harriman, ordered that "everything must be done to ensure that the best specialists are at the disposal of the American Embassy." Hospital staff said she was undergoing intensive tests.

In Washington, a White House spokesman said: "She's been a superb Ambassador. She has really represented America well in Paris."

Embassy officials said Mrs

Harriman had been preparing to stand down next June, after four years as Ambassador in the city she knew well from her early days as a jet-setting socialite and hostess.

Her knowledge of politics and diplomacy was self-taught, gleaned from half a century spent mixing with some of the world's most powerful men and, more seldom, women. In one of the last interviews she gave before her stroke, she said: "I am a political animal. I do love politics. I'm interested in my country's politics and other



Harriman had gone to swim in Ritz pool

countries' politics." Mrs Harriman gave up British citizenship to become an American in 1971.

President Clinton, who repaid her fund-raising and networking skills by appointing her to one of the world's most coveted diplomatic posts, was receiving hourly updates on her condition. "The President and First Lady are very concerned... She is in their thoughts and prayers," said Mike McCurry, the President's press spokesman.

Indestructible envoy, page 3

70 Israeli troops die as helicopters crash

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AT LEAST 70 Israeli soldiers were killed last night when two military Sikorsky helicopters crashed in bad weather close to the border with southern Lebanon.

The helicopters were carrying troops and equipment to the war between Israelis and Iranian-backed guerrillas in the occupied south of Lebanon. Although the crash took place over an agricultural settlement, an official spokesman said that no-one had been killed on the ground.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who cancelled a visit due today to Jordan, said: "This is a grave disaster, and a heavy heart goes out to the families of the

victims." Israel television showed graphic footage of explosions and flames surrounding the crash as dead bodies were taken away. A final toll could take many hours to emerge as military censors in Israel insist that all families of victims are informed before such details are given.

The two helicopters were flying towards the Israeli-occupied zone when they collided in thick fog above the settlement of Shear Yeshuv.

"There was a huge explosion above the settlement," Rachel Fromovitz, a witness, said. "The helicopters crashed right above us and came down in a fiery blaze."

Heads face compulsory training after poor report

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

HEAD teachers may face compulsory training, John Major said yesterday, after the Chief Inspector of Schools had reported that almost 3,000 were failing to provide adequate leadership.

Chris Woodhead said in his annual report that about one in seven primary school heads and one in ten in secondary schools were failing to give clear direction. More than a third of primary head teachers were judged poor at reviewing their school's work.

Although most schools were well led, Mr Woodhead said, too many head teachers did not have their "finger on the pulse". Governors and local

authorities had to face up to the problem if extra training and support did not produce improvements.

The judgment, in an otherwise improved report, led to exchanges in the House of Commons, with Mr Major saying that he would not rule out a compulsory competence qualification for new and aspiring head teachers. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, had said earlier that there was no need for compulsion.

Labour, which supports a compulsory qualification, claimed a U-turn in government policy and said Mr Major's intervention was further evidence of another split with Mrs Shephard. But the Department for Education and Employment insisted that there was no difference of opinion. Schools now receive £2,500 towards the training of new heads and, next month the Teacher Training Agency will launch the National Professional Qualification for Headship.

David Hart, General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said there was no need to make the qualification compulsory.

Testing changes, page 6
Chris Woodhead, page 16
Leading article, page 17



If you're worried about my report you should see my headmasters

SFO jail threat

George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, and four other members of his staff face the threat of jail over a copper dealing fraud investigation. Page 23

Professor settles an old score for Brahms

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MUSICIANS are playing Brahms with hundreds of mistakes because published scores of his music are riddled with errors, according to a leading scholar of the German master's work.

Robert Pascall, professor of music at Nottingham University, has gone back to the original manuscripts and discovered that Brahms's Leipzig printers made 281 mistakes in the First Symphony alone. But the composer was too busy writing the second to spot the errors in the proofs.

Most of the mistakes seem relatively minor, but they can be crucial to reproducing the sound that Brahms

wanted to hear. For example, Professor Pascall found that the crescendo hair-pin markings had missed a beat or a bar, while staccato markings had been either omitted or put over the wrong notes.

Studying the Second Symphony manuscript, Professor Pascall found errors such as the "sf" marking for sforzando instead of Brahms's "rf", or rinforzando, for an increased tone rather than a sudden accent.

Sir Simon Rattle, whose City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra will mark the composer's centenary with a couple of all-Brahms concerts, was excited by the research. He said: "Every conductor and performer always wants to ring up the composer and say 'What did you

mean by this?' This is the next best thing to talking to Brahms on the phone."

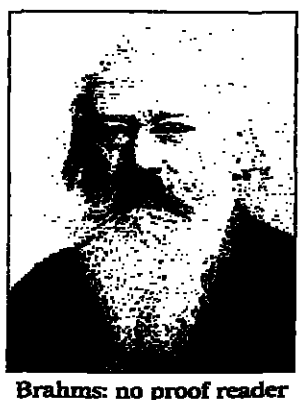
Sir Charles Mackerras and Roger Norrington are already working closely with Professor Pascall. Sir Charles said that his performances had taken up all the corrections and Mr Norrington has recorded the First Symphony with the professor's suggested amendments.

In the past, conductors had not been so interested in what composers wrote and some had even changed orchestrations, Mr Norrington said. "Now we trust the composers a bit more. We long to know exactly what they wrote."

The rest of Brahms's repertoire is now receiving the same rigorous treatment in a project that will take 30 years.

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Tories prepare to retread rubber-chicken circuit

Prepare for the demise of Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Prime Minister called him "infallible" yesterday. Just before forcing her own Chancellor into resignation, Margaret Thatcher called Nigel Lawson "unassailable". So it's curtains for Ken, then.

Next, Mr Major called the Eurosceptical opinions of Sir Peter Tapsell (C, Lindsey E) "undeniable". What hope now for Sir Peter?

His shirt buttons tensioned to the point where each threatened to become a small missile, Clarke chorled away on the front bench: not so much infallible as inflatable. Or inflammable — Clarke's face turning ever pinker. It was a



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

search of another, then returns to Parliament representing somewhere new.

A had Tory result at the election will launch on to the rubber-chicken circuit (if we may mix metaphors) scores more would be retreads. Labour guffawed at Sir Ivan's pride in retreading, Madam Speaker giggling too.

Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) complained about the improved Commons lighting. He could now see the Tory backbenchers. The view was depressing him. Labour's

Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull N) complained that a *Hansard* misprint had implied he was a prison escapee. Sir Paul Beresford (Minister is a part-time dentist) — *The Guardian* complained that Labour were resorting to "the bleeding stump syndrome" chop of something vital and wave it around to frighten the public.

Sir Paul's accent hails from somewhere Down Under and (if you shut your eyes) sounds like Dame Edna Everage's alter ego, Sir Les Patterson.

Excited by his bleeding stump metaphor, the Antipodean dentist then accused Labour of "counting their chickens before they're hatched," leaving us in a nightmare confusion of chickens, eggs, bleeding stumps, root-canal therapy and kangaroos.

I glanced at Labour. A very trim lady was seated beside another of more ample frame. The trim one with short, neat hair — Janet Anderson (Rossendale & Darwen) — was dressed in a slim-cut, grey-green suit with high white collars. Next to her the spirited Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe & Nantwich), a tough-minded woman in a rug-like tweedy jacket, looked as though she had not so much dressed as

rolled herself up in the bedroom carpet and rolled into work. The couple called to mind a Salvation Army worker sitting with the lady she had befriended. No soup changed hands.

Up in the Strangers' Gallery sat a party of canoeists. At least they seemed to be canoeists: youths in rubbery yellow and white tops, with black, neck-hugging collars. They looked bewildered, as though they had just canoed up the Thames and come ashore in the wrong place.

Canoeists, dentists, fugitive MPs, salvationists, bleeding stumps, retreads and inflatable chancellors... is the Commons getting demob-happy — or are we?

Services to share £500m staff college for officers

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Navy, Army and RAF are to share a prestigious new officers' staff college which will be built on a greenfield site and cost £500 million, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The price tag, which is double the cost of the Ministry of Defence's procurement executive headquarters completed last year for £254 million at Abbey Wood near Bristol, covers the construction of the building and running costs over 30 years.

The decision to build a new centre for the three Armed Services followed a long re-examination by the MoD of its original idea which was to close the existing three staff colleges — the Royal Navy at Greenwich, the Army at Camberley and the RAF at Bracknell — and develop a joint training college at Camberley.

The proposal for a single

staff college came out of the MoD's defence costs study of three years ago which was principally aimed at cutting £750 million from the support services.

However, after announcing the closure of the Royal Navy College Greenwich, provoking a political outcry, the joint college scheme ran into trouble when it became clear that concentrating the officer training at Camberley was going to be too expensive.

The main problem was that the Department of National Heritage listed the 1861 stone mansion as a Grade I building. Defence sources said this meant any extension to the building would have to be in the same French Renaissance style.

The MoD was forced to keep open the Bracknell site as a temporary joint staff college — constructing numerous portable buildings to accommodate the sudden increase in officers waiting to start their



A model of the joint service command and staff college, to be built on a greenfield site at Shrivenham, Oxfordshire

courses — while it asked the private sector to come up with new ideas for a suitable site for a college.

Yesterday Mr Soames announced that a Serco/Laing consortium had been selected for the contract, which has been awarded under the Government's private finance initiative.

The new joint service command and staff college, which will also absorb the army's junior staff college at Camberley, will be built on an undeveloped area of land at the Army's Royal Military

College of Science at Shrivenham in Oxfordshire and is expected to be ready for use by 1999.

MoD sources said the Shrivenham site had worked out cheaper than trying to extend the buildings at Camberley. It was also cheaper, they said, than keeping open the existing three single service colleges.

The sources emphasised the importance of having a prestige site in keeping with the Services' reputation for providing excellent command training. They said it would

cost £11 million to keep the RAF staff college at Bracknell open for another two years. It would then be sold.

The Army staff college at Camberley, which takes up about a third of a large site which also accommodates Sandhurst royal military academy, will remain in MoD ownership.

Army sources said the plan was to turn the staff college at Camberley into a centre of excellence for land warfare, although no final decisions have yet been made.

The future of Greenwich

has also yet to be decided. An advisory committee is currently examining a number of options which include leasing it to the National Maritime Museum and the University of Greenwich.

The MoD sources said the new joint staff college would cater for about 2,000 students a year, including many who are expected to attend from overseas.

The Department of War Studies at King's College, London, would provide academic courses for the new staff college, Mr Soames said.

Social chapter attacked as route to the dole

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR warned last night that signing up to the European social chapter would cost 500,000 jobs in Britain, provoking an immediate challenge from Labour to publish the calculations on which he based his claim.

In an uncompromising speech in Brussels, the Prime Minister called on Europe to wake up to the need for Britain's enterprise approach.

Placing Europe at the heart of the general election campaign, Mr Major said that, unlike Labour, he would never sign the social chapter. "First stop social chapter, next stop social security," he said.

Battle was quickly joined by Labour. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, dubbing Tory Eurosceptics as the Conservative Militant Tendency. "The big difference is that when we had to deal with a similar organisation we got rid of them."

In a speech today Mr Cook

will accuse Mr Major of reducing the social chapter to a "grotesque caricature" and warn the business community of the danger of the Tories drifting away from, and eventually leaving, the EU.

Speaking to the European Policy Forum, Mr Major highlighted the legislation already in the social chapter pipeline that would come through if the "handbrake" of Britain's opt-out was removed.

There were new proposals to: shift the burden of proof on to employers in sex-discrimination cases; extend full-time rights and conditions to part-time and temporary workers; enforce compulsory arrangements for informing and consulting employees at national level; impose further restrictions on the dismissal of workers; and introduce new rules on sick pay.

Mr Major emphasised his own commitment to the "enterprise" model of a deregulated

EU was not merely a negotiating ploy. "Our partners are wrong to believe we'll come on board in the end. If we dislike the policy, we won't," he said.

"The British Government has made up its mind. Our enterprise economy is not negotiable. To me the choice for Europe is simple. We can either stand up and be counted or lie back and be counted out. And that is no choice at all."

Supported by a battery of graphs and charts which accompanied the text of his speech, the Prime Minister sought to nail the "myths" surrounding his opposition to the social chapter. It was "nonsense" to suggest that without the social chapter, workers would be open to exploitation. Britain had its own comprehensive laws protecting workers' rights.

"We are now in the 1990s not the 1840s. Companies nowadays send young people on



Major: says EU ought to emulate Britain

training courses, not up chimneys," he said. He also denied that social legislation was necessary to protect workers from job insecurity or that it would help increase permanent employment rather than temporary jobs.

Mr Cook will today counter that there is nothing in the social chapter that will threaten competitiveness. "It is a measure of the extent to which the Tory party is out of touch with today's world that they suffer from the delusion that their opposition to the social chapter is an election winner."

Labour arouses scepticism on tax

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO economic reports gave warnings yesterday that a Labour government would put up tax and spending. They coincided with an opinion poll suggesting that Labour's tough message on spending had not got through to the voters, who were still expecting a Blair government to raise taxes.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bankers, published two documents suggesting that a Labour government would not be able to keep to the public spending figures set by Kenneth Clarke. Its report *Economic Policy after the Election* says: "Spending will almost certainly rise more rapidly than the government current projections. The question is, will Labour allow that to be reflected in a higher deficit or higher taxes?"

The report questions Gordon Brown's pledge last week that Labour would stick to government spending targets.

"Mr Brown has only committed himself to meeting the first two years and even here we are sceptical of Labour's ability to do so."

A second report from the merchant bankers, *Life Under Labour*, suggests that Labour might need to raise taxes to keep pledges on improving education, health and housing. It also predicts difficulties on keeping public sector wages down. Labour dismissed the reports as a "pack of lies" from Tory allies, and shrugged off an opinion poll in *The Guardian* suggesting that the party had failed to persuade voters that it would maintain pledges on spending and income tax.

Sixty per cent of voters in the ICMA poll thought Labour would increase spending over the next five years and 55 per cent thought it would put up income tax. Forty-four per cent expected an income tax rise under the Tories.

Lords back changes to the Firearms Bill

The Government suffered a fresh defeat last night in the House of Lords when peers backed radical changes to the planned new gun control laws introduced after *Dunblane*. Pro-shooting peers supported a move to allow all .22 calibre handgun owners to keep their weapons at home as long as they had been made safe by leaving a vital part of the mechanism in a secure gun club.

Under the Firearms (Amendment) Bill, all handguns would be banned, except the .22s and below, which ministers had intended to be kept in licensed shooting clubs under stringent new security conditions. Under the Bill as it now stands, the shooting community will be able to keep their so-called "disassembled" handguns at home. Peers voted by 153 to 139, a majority of 14, in favour of an amendment sponsored by Lord Pearson of Rannoch which would allow the slide assemblies, or cylinders, of .22 or lower calibre handguns to be kept at gun clubs.

Courts to rule on school

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, promised in the High Court in London yesterday to abandon plans for a £14 million grammar school in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, if the courts decide the scheme is unlawful. The Tory county council's proposal to build the first new grammar school for 30 years is opposed by the Labour-controlled borough council.

Researchers threatened

Animal research scientists at Oxford and Bristol universities are on security alert after death threats against five vivisectionists. The Animal Rights Militia threatened the reprisals if Barry Horne, who has been on hunger strike for four weeks while awaiting trial, should die. Mr Horne, who faces charges of possessing explosives and intent to cause explosions, is in a Bristol prison.

Mental health reforms

Stephen Dorrell proposed the creation of new mental health authorities as part of plans to improve care in the community after a series of killings and suicides by released patients. The Health Secretary's Green Paper is designed to stop the mentally ill from being abandoned in the gap between the duties of health authorities and social services departments.

Blair pledge on Ulster

Tony Blair promised last night to reinvigorate the Northern Ireland peace process if he won the general election. In an article in the *Belfast Telegraph*, the Labour leader admitted that the election campaign had led to uncertainty in the Province, and he pledged to make the search for peace one of his main priorities, whether or not Labour was in office.

No charge over book

Anita Monk, wife of the former *Daily Express* deputy editor Ian Monk, will not face charges over the alleged theft of a book about the Duchess of York, the CPS disclosed. Mrs Monk, 47, from Fulmer, Buckinghamshire, was arrested at Heathrow hotel on November 1 after a newspaper was offered a pre-publication copy of *Fergie: Her Secret Life*, by Dr Allan Starkie, for £4,000.

Tallest bishop appointed

Canon William Stewart, 53, whose appointment to be the new Bishop of Taunton has been announced, will be the second bishop in the Church of England who is married to a woman priest. Canon Stewart, who is 6ft 7in tall, will be the tallest bishop in the Church. He is vicar of St Mark's Church, Oulton Broad in Norfolk. He met his wife, Janet, a hospital chaplain, at theological college. They married 27 years ago.

Court burglars thwarted

Burglars tried to sabotage a £7.5 million drugs trial by breaking into the courtroom and stealing evidence, police disclosed yesterday. The raiders destroyed material but Customs investigators had copied stolen video film, photographs and papers. Three of the defendants at Northamptonshire Crown Court were jailed this week for a total of 36 years. Two others were acquitted.

Paedophile to move

Alan Christie, 50, a convicted paedophile who has been under seige since the address of his council hosted in central Scotland became known, is to be moved outside the council boundaries. Parents bearing a 2,500-signature petition met Stirling Council to voice concerns over Christie, who was released from prison in November after serving a sentence for lewd and libidinous conduct towards a girl of four.

£2.5m beef industry aid

The Government is to spend an extra £2.5 million on promoting British beef to help the industry to recover from the BSE crisis, Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, will tell the National Farmers' Union in London today. He will also announce that Britain's 30,000 dairy farmers are to get help worth £15 million in total as a result of the winding-up of the assets of the old Milk Marketing Board.

Cathedrals shortlisted

Three cathedrals have been shortlisted by the Millennium Commission for the following lottery grants: £2.5 million towards the £5 million cost of completing St Edmundsbury's Cathedral in Suffolk, £2.5 million for Southwark Cathedral in London towards a £4.9 million visitor centre and river walkway, and £1.9 million for the £3.8 million cost of an education centre for Bradford Cathedral.

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Major dismisses EU proposal on ferry safety

By JONATHAN PRYNN

CROSS-CHANNEL ferry passengers will have to disclose personal details to a crew member during the crossing, if proposed European safety regulations are approved.

A European Union directive drawn up after the 1994 *Estonia* disaster

would require the name, gender and age of every man, woman and child on the ship to be reported to the shore within 30 minutes of departure. It was condemned yesterday by ferry companies and ministers as "illogical" red tape that would not improve safety.

In the Commons, John Major also made clear his opposition to the plans,

telling MPs at Question Time that he did not want to see any increase in bureaucracy for ferry passengers. Although the directive would only apply to journeys over 20 miles, this would affect every car ferry crossing of the Channel, which is 22 miles wide at its narrowest point. Viscount Goschen, the Shipping Minister, said the Gov-

ernment had considered and rejected a similar proposal after the loss of the *Harold of Free Enterprise* in 1987.

The directive has the backing of the Dutch Presidency of the European Union but is strongly opposed by Britain. It could be approved by majority voting, with Britain's opposition overruled by other member states.

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FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

UNTIL a sudden stroke left her fighting for her life last night, Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward Harriman was considered, by friend and foe alike, to be virtually indestructible.

During a career as colourful as it was controversial, the 76-year-old "Grande Dame" of the US Democratic Party has been hailed as an inspired hostess, a tough-minded power-broker and an inspired ambassadorial appointment; but she has also been condemned as an athletic social climber and the "last of the great courtesans", who ruthlessly used her charms in a quest for money and status.

Born Pamela Digby in Farnborough, the daughter of an earl, at the age of 19 and in the midst of the Second World War, Mrs Harriman married Randolph Churchill, Sir Winston's son.

After the failed marriage, which produced one son, the Conservative MP Winston Churchill, she remained close friends with her father-in-law and ever afterwards kept the name "Churchill".

She subsequently married the Broadway tycoon Leland Hayward and then, in 1971, Averell Harriman, the multi-millionaire railway heir and American diplomat, with whom she had first had a relationship during the war.

In between, her name was linked with an array of rich and influential men, including the American journalist Edward R. Murrow, the Fiat magnate Gianni Agnelli, Prince Aly Khan, the Greek shipping tycoon Stavros Niarchos and the banker Elie de Rothschild.

Her ability to flatter her consorts and mould her style



The former Pamela Digby with Randolph Churchill



As Pamela Hayward, with Averell Harriman

to theirs earned her the admiration and contempt of her contemporaries in almost equal measure. During her relationship with Agnelli, for example, her transformation was so convincing that the then Paris correspondent of *The Times* was heard asking, after a diplomatic dinner about the "charming Italian girl with red hair". Derided by

some (including, understandably, the wives of her conquests) as a "gold digger", Mrs Harriman responded to her detractors and two recent unauthorised biographies, with lofty disdain. "It's a waste of their time, and mine," she said.

She became a naturalised US citizen after her marriage to Mr Harriman, whose death

in 1986 left Mrs Harriman with a legacy of more than £100 million and an enduring, if unfair, nickname: "the widow of opportunity".

Averell Harriman left his widow a \$66 million (£42 million) fortune and an art collection worth more than \$100 million (£66 million). Gifts to museums, legal fees and other expenses have whittled away the legacy, and Mrs Harriman's personal fortune is currently estimated at less than \$10 million (£6.6 million) with some additional real estate.

In the event of her death, Mr Churchill, her only child, is likely to inherit, although her step-children by her third marriage may lay claim to at least some of the money as part of the continuing legal battle over the estate.

Her political action committee, "Democrats for the '80s", brought her huge political and media attention in the US and she was hailed, in the words of Al Gore, the Vice-President, as the "First Lady of the Democratic Party", whose dinner table was a magnet for politicians, writers and intellectuals.

"Pampac", as her fund-raising committee was called, was greater in myth than reality, for the sums collected were hardly huge by US standards, but Mrs Harriman provided the party with some much-needed glamour.

She was one of the first to support the presidential aspirations of Bill Clinton and acted as co-president of the Clinton-Gore campaign in 1992. After his first election victory, dinner chez Harriman was one of the grateful new President's first stops.

Her arrival at the American embassy in Paris just a few doors from the British embassy, where she was once consid-



Pamela Harriman with her son, the Conservative MP Winston Churchill. She always kept the Churchill name

ered persona non grata on account of her piquant reputation, followed soon after, in 1993. Speaking fluent French, Mrs Harriman's tenure in Paris has proved highly successful.

During recent disagreements between France and the US over Nato, spying scandals, Africa and the Middle East, she has a simple but effective way of mediating such disputes, according to her staff, and one available to

few other US diplomats: she picks up the telephone and calls the White House.

She has used the same direct approach with French politicians, and to considerable effect in a country where her reputation as an Anglo-American version of Madame de Pompadour has added to her cachet.

Her tenure as ambassador in France has been marred by the bitter legal battle with her late husband's children, who

claimed she recklessly squandered the Harriman family fortune in bad investments. In 1995 she was forced to sell part of her art collection, including works by Picasso, Matisse, Renoir and Leonardo. It is, perhaps, a tribute to her extraordinary history that, well into her 70s, Mrs Harriman (herself a former newspaper diarist) was still gossip column material. She was even romantically — and quite baselessly — linked with

Prince Rainier of Monaco. Rumours concerning Mrs Harriman's future after leaving her ambassadorial post have been circulating for months. Last year it was reported that Mrs Harriman was preparing to step down as ambassador, but once again she set her own agenda, vehemently insisting she would leave only when she and her friend President Clinton were ready, and not a moment before.

Antiquities 'smuggled to UK painted like trinkets'

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A LEADING antiques restorer smuggled stolen Egyptian artefacts into Britain by painting them to look like cheap tourist trinkets, a court was told yesterday.

Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, 45, told one of his couriers that he was "doing the Egyptians a favour" by restoring precious antiquities, including doors stolen from the tombs of kings.

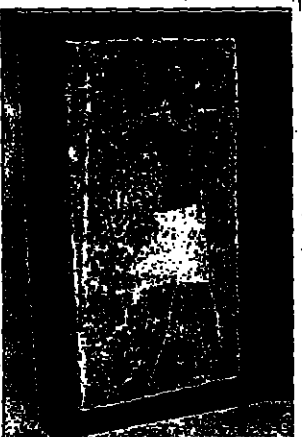
In fact, after painting them with plastic glaze and gold-leaf in order to pass them off as gaudy souvenirs to Egyptian officials, he would take them to Britain and strip them of identifying marks to be sold for profit. Knightsbridge Crown Court was told.

Mr Tokeley-Parry denies three counts of handling stolen goods, including doors from the tomb of Hetepka and King Pepi and a bronze figure of the god Horus.

The jury was told that Mr Tokeley-Parry had recruited a local odd-job man to help him to smuggle the artefacts out of Egypt. Paul Dodgson, for the prosecution, said that over several trips Mark Perry had been instructed to link up with Ali Ahrith Sarag, an Egyptian businessman, who provided him with stolen goods.

It was essential that the goods were disguised in order to fool Egyptian customs. The jury was shown photographs showing Mr Tokeley-Parry defacing Egyptian objects.

"The aim was for the casual



A door allegedly stolen from the Hetepka tomb

observer to think this was a cheap copy of art. The trick was, back in England, that objects in their gaudy, garish disguise could be put in a bath of acetone, where all that gold and decoration would go, to reveal them in their full glory," Mr Dodgson said.

He said one false door, stolen from outside a burial chamber of the Hetepka tomb, had been "touristified" to such an extent that the word "Egypt" had been written on the side.

In another photograph Mr Tokeley-Parry and a helper were shown cutting a door from the pyramid tomb of King Pepi into sections. Once in Britain the artefacts were again disguised in order to avoid them being identified as stolen by scholars who had

carefully documented all the archaeological discoveries in Egypt.

Mr Perry said he had first met Mr Tokeley-Parry in 1992 after doing odd jobs at his cottage near Barnstable, Devon. After Mr Perry admitted he was short of money, Mr Tokeley-Parry asked him if he was interested in smuggling artefacts for him. He was told he would be paid £500 after each all-expenses paid trip abroad.

For his first trip Mr Perry was provided with money for new clothes and a briefcase in which to bring back his goods. He was accompanied by Mr Tokeley-Parry and they booked into the Hotel Windsor in Cairo.

Soon after they arrived, two Egyptians brought antiquities to the hotel, including figurines and a stone relief. "I thought they were from the desert... [Tokeley-Parry] told me he was doing the Egyptians a favour by restoring these antiquities to their former glory."

He was told to ignore Mr Tokeley-Parry on the flight to Britain and, if questioned at Customs, to say the pieces were bought in a bazaar. He subsequently made a number of trips for Mr Tokeley-Parry.

Mr Dodgson said the antiquities may have been taken with the "connivance" of Egyptian officials who were meant to be guarding the tomb.

The case continues.

Friesian Flo sets out for fresh pastures

BY MICHAEL HORNISBY

FLO, the highest-rated British dairy cow, is to go under the hammer at an auction billed as the cattle sale of the year.

The nine-year-old Holstein Friesian — full name Cardisland Edipse Flo — is to be offered for sale on May 6 along with 200 cows kept by Tom Cope and his son, Andy, at Huddesford House Farm, near Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Flo is the only British-bred cow alive to have been awarded a type classification of 96 points out of 100 by both the Holstein Friesian Society



Flo: twice voted Supreme Interbreed Champion

and the British Holstein Society, the bodies which keep pedigree records. Anne Hardy, of the Holstein Friesian Society, said: "She is an exceptional animal."

"The classification points are awarded for appearance only. The classifiers look for a strong, well-attached udder and the classic angular dairy shape with not too much muscularity."

Flo, twice Supreme Inter-

breed Champion at the Royal Show, is also one of the top ten milkers in the country, producing about 3,000 gallons a year, more than twice the average yield.

Tom Cope said: "It will be a great wrench saying goodbye to Flo. She had become like a family pet. We reckon she could go on producing calves until the age of 16 or 17. She has a great temperament and is easy to manage."

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By JEREMY LAURANCE

Although blood clots are a known risk of taking the Pill, the drug taken by Miss Robinson, called Dianette, is prescribed only for acne. It contains a powerful antidote to testosterone, re-

Miss Robinson's inquest, which opened yesterday, was told how she had been studying for A levels and planned a career as an illustrator. She

"We talked it all through with the doctor and we felt we were told everything we needed to know. All the risks were pointed out to us. But you just don't expect something like this to happen. I just want other parents to be aware of the dangers and look out for

Ruth Grigg, a spokeswoman for the Family Planning Association, said: "Dianette is a form of a contraceptive pill but is not prescribed specifically for contraception. The Pill itself is safe and effective. Tragically, Pill deaths do occur but they are very rare."



Dianette's side-effects are



chance but in some others, as presumably in Miss Robinson's, disaster has been precipitated by the Pill.

It is easy for doctors to tell themselves that the chance of a fatal complication in those taking Dianette must be considerably less than one in 100,000 and that that is an acceptable risk for someone whose life is made a misery by disfiguring acne, but the parents of the patient involved have lost 100 per cent of the joy of their daughter's

Dianette is a low-dose pill with 35mg of ethinylloestradiol and is therefore no more dangerous than any of the standard combined contraceptive pills. But it also contains the progestogen cyproterone acetate, which has an anti-androgenic effect. The anti-androgenic carries with it a theoretical risk, never confirmed in clinical practice, that if the patient became pregnant while tak-

Patients on Dianette or the score or more of combined contraceptive pills should stop taking them immediately if they suddenly develop migraine or sudden changes in vision, or have a marked rise in blood pressure. There are various risk factors which affect thrombotic or embolic complications in Pill-takers. They include smoking, obesity,

Pill-takers should remember that the Pill is relatively safe; spending a day crossing busy streets has six times the risk of taking a Pill a day. A fatal thrombosis is three times more likely to happen when pregnant than when taking the Pill.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

National guidelines issued by the Government's Public Health Laboratory Service say four weeks is the maximum time between cases which could be linked. However, laboratory analysis has since revealed that the first two

Dot Hodge, president of the students' union at Cardiff University, said: "I think the health authority and university acted to the best of their

□ A 20-year-old woman teaching student at La Sainte Union College of Higher Education in Southampton has been admitted to hospital suffering from bacterial meningitis. Eight fellow students at the college have been treated.

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The court was told that at the time of her diagnosis she was three months pregnant and had returned to her native New Zealand. Although she wanted to have the baby, she was concerned because she already had a child, then aged two, who needed her. She underwent a radical hysterectomy, preventing her from having children again, followed by radiotherapy.

Described as a remarkable woman by all the doctors who had examined her, the court was told that she had fought the cancer "with every ounce of her being" but still lived under the shadow that the



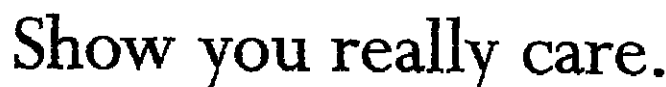
Re-examination of the tissue samples showed that, in both tests, pathologists had failed to pick up "the ominous clues of

Miss Tracy Forster said the health authority admitted negligence in respect of the tests carried out in 1988 and 1991 but disputed the amount of damages payable to Mrs Thurman.

The hearing continues

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Hindley plans to fight 'whole life' ruling by Howard

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MYRA HINDLEY is planning to challenge Michael Howard in the High Court over yesterday's decision that she must spend the rest of her life in prison. The Moors murderer was informed in writing at Durham prison that the Home Secretary had confirmed the "whole life tariff" imposed in 1990.

Hindley will be kept under close observation by prison staff over the next few days in case she attempts to kill herself. Any inmate whose hopes of freedom are dashed is kept under close watch.

Hindley's lawyers, Taylor Nicol, said the tariff — the period to be served for retribution and deterrence — was unlawful and inhumane, and failed to reflect the views of the judiciary consulted in her case, that she should serve less time than her co-defendant, Ian Brady.

They added: "It demonstrates that Michael Howard has bowed to political pressure and public opinion rather than consider the merits of her case." He had not taken into account Hindley's exceptional progress since she was jailed in 1966 and her "genuine remorse".

The Earl of Longford, who has campaigned on behalf of Hindley for years, said the decision was iniquitous, particularly as she was not a danger to anyone. "The only question is, are there some sins that can't be forgiven? Personally, I think all sins can be forgiven, including those of Michael Howard." He said that, despite his age — he is 91 — he would continue to campaign for her release.

However, Alan West, whose wife's daughter, Lesley Ann Downey, was murdered by Hindley, said he was delighted. "It's totally the right decision."



Hindley: lawyers may seek judicial review

tion. She should never be let out and I'm glad she knows that," he said.

The letter from the Home Office came after Taylor Nicol made representations against the whole-life sentence, which was imposed by David Waddington, the former Home Secretary, in 1990.

The Reverend Peter Timms, a Methodist minister who is a former prison governor, last night condemned the decision as an "injustice" and said Hindley was being treated like a political prisoner.

Yesterday's letter could lead to a judicial review, with her lawyers likely to argue that the tariff should not have been increased from 30 years to a whole life. A second argument will be that no Home Secretary has the right or power to rule out the possibility of release. Hindley will exhaust all remedies in the English courts before considering action in the European courts.

Hindley, 54, is one of 24 prisoners who have been told they will serve natural life. They include Ian Brady, convicted with her for the Moors

murders; Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper; child killers John Straffen and Robert Black; Donald Neilson, the Black Panther, and the serial killers Dennis Nilsen and Rosemary West.

Brady, whose health has broken down, is expected to receive a letter similar to that sent to Hindley within the next few days. He is in Ashworth psychiatric hospital in Maghull, Liverpool.

Hindley and Brady, her lover, were jailed in May 1966 for the murders of Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and Edward Evans, 17. In 1987 they confessed to the murders of Keith Bennett, 12, and Pauline Reade, 16. Brady also murdered John Kilbride, 12.

A Labour Party spokesman said last night: "We could not comment on an individual case, but Jack Straw accepts that there are certain individuals who have to spend the rest of their lives in prison."



Denise Bulger said Blake Morrison "clearly doesn't know the first thing about what really happened"

James Bulger's mother 'fuming' at book on killers

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

JAMES BULGER'S mother yesterday attacked a new book that claims that her son's killers were not evil and were not old enough to understand their crime.

The writer, Blake Morrison, asserts that Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, both aged ten at the time of the crime, were not psychopaths and may be ready for release within four years. In an interview, Mr Morrison added that the public should feel sympathy for the boys' families and condemned the "lynch mob" attitude to the crime in Britain.

Denise Bulger said she was fuming with rage at his comments. "He clearly doesn't know the first thing about what really happened. These boys planned their crime. It was cold blooded and calculated. They were old enough to realise what taking another life meant. I am disgusted with this man. He is trying to earn money out of our misery."

Mrs Bulger added: "How can anyone feel sorry for their families? What about my family? If they want to see their

sons they can go to the secure units where they are held. I can't see James."

Mr Morrison, speaking on ITV's *This Morning*, defended his book, *As If*, in which he says that although the boys committed the murder, that does not make them evil. "The boys have shown remorse. I feel there is no evidence of them being psychopaths. They came from troubled homes. These are very young boys, they are only beginning to understand the consequences of their actions."

"Nobody's saying they should be released without a very long period of rehabilitation but one day they might actually be fit to re-enter society. When you are an adult you are not the same person you were at ten and I don't think it's right to lock up for life children of ten. Whether a child of ten can understand the difference between life and death in a way an adult can I very much doubt. I don't believe they were fully aware of the consequences of their actions on that day."

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



FASHION
WARS

How in-fighting stalks the House of Dior in the Magazine

ODD MAN OUT
All-female families and how to survive them in Weekend

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Peer leaves mental institution for Lords

By PAUL WILKINSON

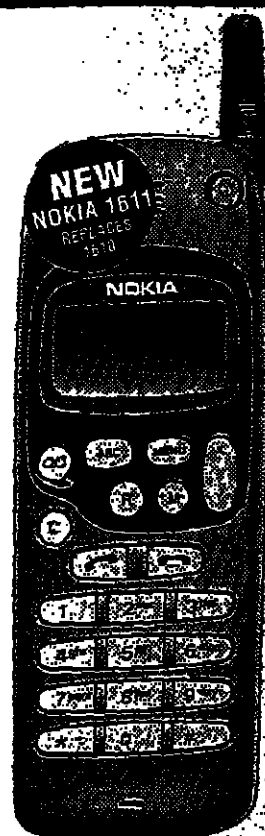
A PEER who has spent the past 32 years in mental institutions was yesterday preparing to take his seat in the House of Lords as a Conservative.

Angus Edward Vivian Smith, 64, the third Lord Bicester, has just been told he can take his first steps towards leaving a home and resuming life in the outside world. The decision by an independent mental health tribunal in York is a triumph for friends of the Old Etonian. They claimed Lord Bicester was no longer a danger either to himself or the

public at large. He was released briefly in the mid-1980s but was returned in 1988 soon after apparently stopping the car carrying the Princess of Wales on a street in Kensington "for a chat".

On hearing the decision he said: "I am now looking forward to sitting in the House of Lords and seeing a few old friends. I will probably sit with the Conservatives." The tribunal recommended that he can leave the Retreat, a Quaker-owned and run psychiatric hospital in York.

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Results will allow parents to evaluate primary schools, says Shephard

All five-year-olds to be tested in first year



Shephard: voluntary pilot tests start in September

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

ALL children will be tested in their first term at school, Gillian Shephard announced yesterday. The Education Secretary said the results would allow parents to measure the success of primary schools, with the introduction of league tables for seven-year-olds as the Government's next target in opening education to public scrutiny.

Mrs Shephard said pilot tests for four and five-year-olds in reading, writing, arithmetic and social skills would take place on a voluntary basis from September. They will be

mandatory from autumn 1998, but local authorities will be allowed to set their own questions as long as they conform to a national framework. Schools will be required to share the results with parents as well as using the outcome to focus on individual weaknesses. Details of the assessment scale will be announced in May.

Mrs Shephard said: "I think that in due course we will have a national scheme, but there is no need to upset everything, provided we are sure that the existing schemes are rigorous." A national system would "suggest itself" when the time was right. This year's pilot tests are expected to take 20 minutes

per child. The two largest classroom unions expressed concern at the additional workload on their members in primary schools.

The introduction of "baseline assessment", which already takes place in a half of all primary schools, is supported by all the main political parties as an essential first step to monitoring the progress of children throughout their school years. Both Labour and the Conservatives are committed to the measurement of value added by schools in future examination tables.

The results will also be used, together with inspection reports, to measure the effectiveness of nursery schools as the Government's nursery

voucher scheme gets under way. However, Mrs Shephard said the tests were not intended to aid selection in primary schools and would not be suitable for that purpose. Asked whether the latest development would lead to league tables at seven, Mrs Shephard said: "It would be my desire to be as open as possible about the measurement of the output of the education system, so that would be my long-term aim."

The comments came just weeks before the publication, in the teeth of determined opposition from primary teachers, of the first league tables for 11-year-olds. The prospect of extending the exercise to the younger age group provoked outrage

from teachers' leaders. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said league tables for seven-year-olds would provoke "uproar that would make the row over 11-year-olds seem like a tea party". He added: "This has got nothing to do with the needs of parents and schools and everything to do with future candidacy for the leadership of the Conservative Party."

Tables of 11-year-olds' English, maths and science results in more than 12,500 state primary schools will be published early in March.

Chris Woodhead, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Guinea-pig pupils give scheme full marks for fun

By DANIEL MCGRORY

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Cassie Blackman loves a test because it means she can have the jigsaw to herself while the 38 other children in the reception class of her south London school are steered to other projects to occupy their afternoon.

Considering whether to go for the blue or green whale first, she is distracted by her friends Kishma and Corey tackling their picture puzzle with admirable speed while their teacher, Sandra Payne, keeps an eye on progress.

She has been testing four and five-year-olds in a pilot scheme at Wandale Primary School in Wandsworth, southwest London, for seven years and believes there is nothing sinister about it. "It's all fun, really. The idea is not to mark out the best or the brightest but to see what a child needs, and every one of them needs something."

The baseline test, as it is officially known, is hidden inside a blue folder with a Polaroid photograph of the child on the front. It looks complicated, with dozens of stages to measure on reading and mathematical skills, but Mrs Payne shows how Cassie is demonstrating that she not only recognises a number but can point to it in a picture

book and hold up the correct number of fingers. That fills up five squares in her assessment.

Sue Alton, the headmistress, admits she was sceptical about testing children so young. "It was the fear of the unknown. Teachers were worried it would be used to judge them and parents were scared their child would be marked from the day they started in nursery school. All it does, I promise you, is give a picture of what a child knows, what it doesn't, and what we need to teach them."

Mrs Alton admits that Wandale is a school that "had a rotten reputation" six years ago and "we are doing our best to shake it off". She points to the assessments of this reception class which show that every child has improved since joining. Parents said that they had overcome their reservations. As the children scrambled over each other to leave yesterday, they applauded Wandsworth's initiative. Margaret Taylor said: "Our son Danny has improved a lot. He could not do anything with a pencil and now he is beginning to write."

At the independent South Hampstead Junior School for Girls, Kate Stay, the head-



Children at Wandale School, Wandsworth, yesterday. Their teacher said: "The idea is to see what a child needs. Every one needs something"

mistress, is against four-year-olds being coached or pressurised into passing entrance examinations as required by some independent schools.

"We make it clear that no formal knowledge is required. We give out applicants a series of activities in groups and we look to see which girls might be best suited to our way of teaching. A girl cannot fail, because it's not an exam."

There are 24 places every year in the reception class and the school closes the application list when it reaches 160. The fees are £1,348 a term.

TESTS FOR FIVE-YEAR-OLDS

Test materials for this year's pilot scheme cover reading, writing, speaking and listening, mathematics and personal and social development. Children will be judged against the "desired outcomes" agreed by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

□ **Reading:** during a reading session, children should make at least one attempt to predict words and phrases. They do not have to be correct, but should make sense in the context. After the teacher has named pictured objects, children should recognise at least three of the initial sounds in the words.

□ **Writing:** the child is asked to write his or her first name unaided. The result must be legible, spelt correctly and use upper and lower case letters.

□ **Speaking and listening:** in a group discussion, children must wait their turn to speak, listening to others and not dominating the conversation.

□ **Mathematics:** given up to ten objects, the child must count out sets of five, nine and ten pieces. He or she must be able to count out the sets at least twice. Children are expected to name and write numbers between one and ten, which are shown initially on a display sheet. In

order to test early familiarity with the language involved in addition and subtraction, the child must use set terms such as "minus" and "equals" in a prompted discussion.

□ **Personal and social development:** teachers will assess whether a child is generally happy to come to school, whether he or she is confident and keen to contribute to class activities. Given a task which each child should enjoy and be able to accomplish without help, the child should be able to concentrate without direct supervision for ten minutes.

Woodhead says pressure for results is changing education

By JOHN O'LEARY

PROGRESSIVE teaching methods are beginning to disappear as the pressure for improved results forces a change in the culture of education, Chris Woodhead claimed yesterday in his annual report as Chief Inspector of Schools. Mr Woodhead said that the 5,000 inspections during 1995-96 had produced a picture of significant improvement mixed with problems which had to be taken seriously.

The proportion of poor or unsatisfactory lessons had dropped from 18 per cent to 16 per cent, and he revised his previous estimate of 15,000 incompetent teachers to 13,000. Only 88 teachers had been judged unsatisfactory in 2,862 inspections since individual reporting began last April. Almost 2,000 staff had been judged outstanding.

Mr Woodhead listed 159

successful schools of the 5,000 inspected. All received excellent inspection reports and either achieved excellent exam results or demonstrated a sustained improvement.

Secondary schools: Audenshaw High, Manchester; Bishop Challoner Secondary, Basingstoke; Brentwood High, Cator Grammar, Lines; Cardinal Newman RC High, Rochdale; Cardinal Newman RC and Community College, Coventry; Carleton High, Penrith; Dene Magna Community, Dene Magna, Glos; Doss High, Norfolk; Dr Challoner's High, Amersham, Bucks; Eggescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees; Finchley RC High, Barnet; Frogmore Community, Camberley, Hants; Habersham High, Burnley; Harrow Way Community, Andover, Hants; Hawley High, Wigan.

Helenswood, St Leonard's, East Sussex; Heddon County High, Norwich; Highworth Grammar, Ashford, Kent; Hush Episcopi, Langport, Somerset; Humberston



Woodhead: serious problems remain

Comp, Grimsby; Huntington, York; Ivybridge Community College, Devon; Kennet, Newbury, Berks; Langley Park for Girls, Bransley, Leicestershire; Langley Park Community College, Dudley, West Midlands; Meadowhead, Sheffield; Newstead Wood for Girls, Orpington;

Ninesiles, Birmingham; Oad County, Surrey; Our Lady and St John, Blackburn; Ponteland County High, Newcastle upon Tyne; Preston Community, Yeovil.

Queen's, Walford; Rainham for Girls, Gillingham, Kent; Range High, Selton; Richard Hale High, Hertford; Robert May's, Hook, Hants; Simon Balle, Hertford; Simon Langton Grammar, Canterbury; Sir John Leman High, Beccles, Suffolk; St Augustine RC, Trowbridge, Wilt; St Bede's RC High, Blackburn; St Edmund Arrowood RC High, Wigan; St John's, Marlborough, Wilt; St Mary's RC High, Wigan; Stratford upon Avon Grammar for Girls; Bishop Milner RC, Dudley.

Chase High, Malvern, Cornwall; Maidstone, Kent; Hayfield, Doncaster; Hertfordshire and Essex High, Bishop's Cleeve, Kings of Wessex Community, Cheddar, Somerset; London Oratory, Hammersmith and Fulham; Norton Knatchbull, Ashford, Kent; Philip Morant, Colchester; Tonbridge Grammar for Girls, Kent; Trinity Catholic High, Woodford; Tudor Grange, Solihull, Telford, Warwick; Tyndham, Christchurch, Dorset; Tytherington County High, Macclesfield; Wolverhampton Girls' High.

Primary schools: Askwith County, Otley, W Yorks; Banks Lane, Stockport; Barnby Dun, Doncaster; Barton Infant and Nursery, Torquay; Billingham Infant, Billingham, W Sussex; Bewster Avenue Infant, Peterborough; Broadway East First, Newcastle upon Tyne; Byley County, Middlewich; Christchurch Infant, Ilkley, Church End Lower, Bedford; Clatter Ede, Newark; Clifton Infant, Wakefield; Conbe, Witley, Oxon; Crawley Ridge, Camberley, Surrey; Deer Park, Chesterfield, Derby; Delamare, Tarpoley, Cheshire; Edenhall, Bourne, Lincs; Engayne Junior, Epsom; Evelyn, Prescot; Knowsley, Flintshire, Newpark; Notts; Florence Melly Infant, Liverpool; Frognote, Camberley, Hants; Galley Hill, Gillingham, Cleveland; Gotherington, Cheltenham, Glos; Great Crosby, Liverpool; Hornton, Banbury, Oxon; Hoss, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire; Darlington;

Keston Infant, Cusdon, Croydon; Kingsmoor, Carlisle; Kings Heath, Birmingham; Leighton, Telford, Glos; Long Bennington, Newark; Lower Heath, Whitchurch, Shropshire; Lydgate, Sheffield; Lynpne, Hythe, Kent; Marine Park, Whitby Bay.

Middleover, Derby; Montpellier, Plymouth; Muskhelm, Newark; Notts; New Hartley First, Whitby Bay; North Reddish Infant, Stockport; Our Lady of Lourdes, Warrnes; Our Lady of Walsingham Infant, Booter, Overchurch, Wirral; Peak Forest, Buxton; Persby Infant, Wirral; Pinewood Infant, Farnborough, Hants; Poulton Lanesby, Wirral; Reigate Infant, Derby; Riddings Junior, Alfreton, Derby; Senan, Delaval, Whitby Bay; Silcoe VC Lower, Bedford; South Oset Infant, Wakefield; Southern St James, Leamington Spa; St Bede's RC, Redcar; St Christopher, Coventry; St Ives, Ringwood, Dorset; St John Vianney RC, Coventry; St Joseph's RC, Billingham; St Joseph's RC, Westminster; St Mary's RC, Westmoreland; St Mary's RC, Ramon's Infant, Tavistock; St Mary's, Westgate on Sea, Kent;

Temple Sowerby, Penrith; Thorndown Infant, Huntingdon, Cambs; Thornton-in-Craven, Skipton, N Yorks; Torpoint Infants, Cornwall; Turfingford First, Aylesbury, Bucks; Valley End Infant, Woking, West Bedfordshire; West Down, Wiltshire; Whitfield Infant, Darlington; Winklebury Infant, Basingstoke, Hants.

Middle schools: Exeter Central; Farnham Common, Slough; Nursery schools: Bognor Regis; Cleveleys, Jarrold; Elston Hall, Walsingham; Marsh Hill, Birmingham; North Lifford, Lislington; Strong Close, Kelghley, Special schools: Abbey, Rotham; Dawn House, Mansfield; Heathfield, Heathfield, Hants; Kiln Thorpe, Cleveland; Lister Lane, Bradford; Longmoor, Exeter; Dorset; Marshfields, Peterborough; Meadowgate, Lewisham; Orreys Meadow, Wirral; Pinfild Hospital, Wakefield; St Anthony's, Margate; Park Nursery, Margate; Wendover House, Wendover, Woodlands, Blackpool.

Chris Woodhead, page 16

Dublin man charged with murder of Guerin

A man has been charged with the murder of the investigative journalist Veronica Guerin in Dublin last year. Paul Ward, 32, of Crumlin, Dublin, was charged last year with conspiracy to murder Ms Guerin, who was shot dead at the wheel of her car in June, and with being an accessory after the fact. These two charges will now be withdrawn. Ward, who appeared in Kilmainham District Court, was remanded in custody for a week.

Zoe remand

Private Miles Evans, 23, of Warminster, Wiltshire, charged with murdering his stepdaughter, nine-year-old Zoe Evans, was remanded in custody until February 12 by Trowbridge magistrates yesterday.

RUC officers held

Several RUC officers were being questioned by detectives investigating fraud involving second-hand car sales in Northern Ireland and on mainland Britain. Car dealers in Co Tyrone and Co Fermanagh were also held.

Prison ship plan

Council officials have recommended that no objections should be put forward to proposals to moor a prison ship in Portland Harbour, Dorset. The Prison Service wants to house up to 480 inmates for three years.

Milumil link

The manufacturers of Milumil baby milk powder, linked with a salmonella outbreak, have admitted tests showed an "association" between the product and the food poisoning, the Department of Health said.

Rail crash charge

A man aged 19 has been charged with causing criminal damage after an empty train travelling at 85mph hit a car abandoned on the line near Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, on Monday. Nobody was hurt.

Ship shape

Hovercraft, for 30 years designated as aircraft, have been reclassified as ships and will come under the control of the Maritime Safety Agency. Operators believe it is sensible as hovercraft operate alongside ferries and other vessels.

Clear-up cash

Government cash to help North Devon District Council to meet the costs of clearing up damage caused by severe storms in October was announced by David Curry, Environment Minister of State.

Air trance

A newly qualified hypnotherapist put an airline passenger into a trance over the Atlantic to relieve symptoms of a heart attack. Ros Tyre, 46, from Norwich, believes Rose Orders, 48, from Bridgend, South Wales, saved her life.

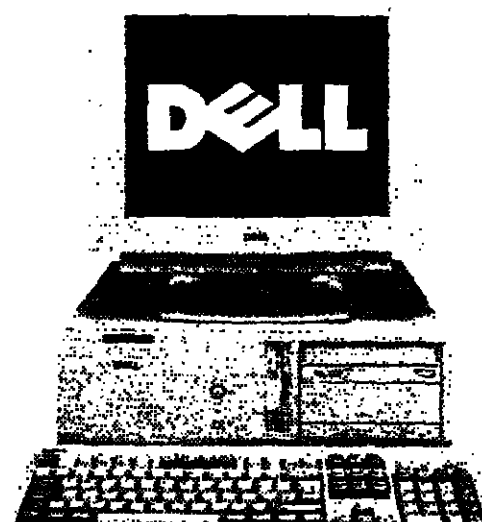
Shopping oasis

A Roman Catholic church has opened in the Metro Centre in Gateshead, Europe's biggest covered out-of-town shopping complex. The chapel, where Mass is celebrated twice daily, is called the Oasis of Peace.

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Bronze guardians of Whistler's tomb fall prey to thieves again



One of the figures that had just been replaced

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THIEVES have vandalised Whistler's tomb in London, stealing four bronze sculptures only a month after they replaced originals stolen in the 1960s.

The tomb at St Nicholas's Church in Chiswick, close to the Thames, is a public monument to the painter. Although he died in 1903, it was not erected until 1912.

Peter Watts, an historical architect with English Heritage, said: "The sculptures are Art Nouveau female figures that balance the stark box of the tomb. They achieve a beautiful contrast. Without them, it's nothing."

The figures had been recast from photographs taken when the tomb was completed. The sculptor was Edward Godwin, whose father, the architect E. W. Godwin, was the first husband of Whistler's wife.

The sculptures had been replaced by Old Chiswick Protection Society after English Heritage helped to meet the cost of £11,000. Claire Gapper, the society's conser-



Whistler painted many pictures by the Thames

vation secretary, said: "It's depressing. We're going to have another go." The figures will be recast in bronze resin, which is less attractive to thieves but less durable.

The society will have to find more cash, though the cost will not be as high as last time because it already has the moulds. But it also has to find £4,000 to restore the tomb of William Hogarth in the same cemetery. English Heritage said the case high-

lighted how thieves were targeting churchyards.

St Nicholas's is a medieval building reconstructed in Victorian times. Mr Watts said the theft left a feeling "of gloom and frustration. It is a sad comment on our times." In London there was a "wonderful heritage in churchyards" but there was a limit to how far they could be policed. Video surveillance was proving useful and the churchyard in Chiswick could be locked.

Whistler, who was born in 1834 in Massachusetts and moved to London in 1859, exhibited with Monet and Renoir. He worked extensively near the Thames and produced striking explorations of colour that approach abstraction. Patricia de Montfort, of the Centre for Whistler Studies at Glasgow University, said the theft was "really appalling. Short of alarming everything or putting chicken wire round it, what is one to do?"

"Whistler worked so much on the Thames and at Chelsea. In that sense the monument is very close to him, his work and his subject matter."



The denuded monument: it was built in a Chiswick churchyard in 1912, nine years after Whistler's death

Dame Iris Murdoch struck down by Alzheimer's disease

BY BILL FROST

DAME Iris Murdoch, one of the most prolific authors of her generation, is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, her husband has revealed. For the past year family and friends had claimed that she was the victim of "serious writer's block". Medical tests for Alzheimer's and other diseases associated with age had proved negative, they said.

However, her husband John Bayley, recently retired Warton Professor of English Literature at Oxford, confirmed yesterday what fellow writers have known for months. "Iris has Alzheimer's. There is no doubt about it," he said.

Professor Bayley, who has been married to Dame Iris for 41 years, must now prepare his wife's meals as she can no longer cook for herself.

Dame Iris, 77, described her condition as "being in a very, very bad quiet place, a dark place". She acknowledged late last year that

there was little hope of remission: "At the moment I can't find anything to help me... I find I haven't got anything at the moment, and this is rather startling to me. I'm afraid I am waiting in vain... perhaps I had better find some other kind of job."

Her last book, *Jackson's Dilemma*, was published in 1995. Dr John Hodges, a consultant neurologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, confirmed there was "no doubt" over the diagnosis. Dame Iris, whom he had visited at her home in Oxford twice in the past six weeks, was in the first stage of the disease, which had left her "forgetful but still able to look after herself".

The phase could last for ten years before the onset of more serious mental deterioration. Even now, though, her memory is so damaged by the disease that she cannot recall the titles of any of the 26 novels she has written. Her first, *Under the Net*, was published in 1954. She won the Booker Prize in 1978 for

The Sea, the Sea. Dame Iris, appointed DBE for services to literature in 1987, wrote relatively quickly before the onset of her illness. She was the first to realise that she was ill.

"I feel as though maybe the whole thing has packed up," she said last September. "I'm just wandering. I think of things and then they go away for ever."

The novelist Beryl Bainbridge said Dame Iris's illness had been an "open secret" in the literary world for the past 12 months. She had enjoyed a "long and brilliant career and the tragedy is she will never write again," she added.

Ms Bainbridge visited Dame Iris in Oxford late last year and was impressed by the level of "care and devotion" displayed by Professor Bayley towards his wife. "He loves her so and looks after her so beautifully. And Iris herself still makes such an effort. The name Alzheimer's strikes such fear into people. But Iris and John are not frightened by what has happened,

they are coping. We have all known for some time that something was wrong — over the last year or so Iris has appeared confused. One just felt that Iris was not as she had been. It was so very sad."

Other friends said that at first they had not noticed Dame Iris's decline. "I saw her at a party and she seemed distracted. But then that was often the way — there is a childlike and distracted quality with novelists," one recalled.

The Alzheimer's Disease Society last night praised Professor Bayley's "determination to preserve his wife's intellect and personality". Veronica Fuller, a spokeswoman for the society, said: "We admire him greatly for what he is doing. He is treating her like an adult, not a child. However, he should realise that there will come a point when he needs nursing help to look after his wife. The professor will have to swallow his pride and bring someone in. Carers need a break themselves, or the disease can break them."



Dame Iris, author of 26 novels, was the first to realise she was ill. "I feel as though the whole thing has packed up," she said

Pesticides linked to bird loss

BY NICK NUTTALL

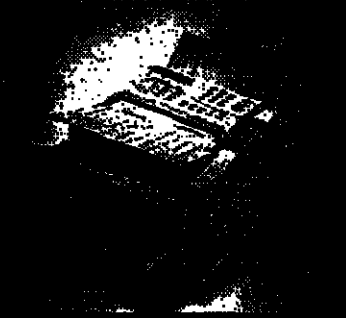
MANY songbirds may be struggling to find food as pesticides and herbicides destroy the plants and insect life on which they depend, researchers said yesterday. A report, published later this year by the Department of the Environment, claims their indiscriminate use is playing a role in the decline of up to 13 species.

The full list of birds which may be affected is lapwing, sand martin, red-backed shrike, bullfinch, song thrush, reed bunting, skylark, linnet, tree sparrow, swallow, starling, turtle dove and blackbird.

A pilot study, called the Arable Incentives Scheme, will pay farmers to reduce chemical spraying around the field edges and leave grassland areas as havens.

About four million sooty shearwaters have disappeared from the California coast, raising fears that their loss is connected to a 0.5C increase in sea temperature that has affected the food chain.

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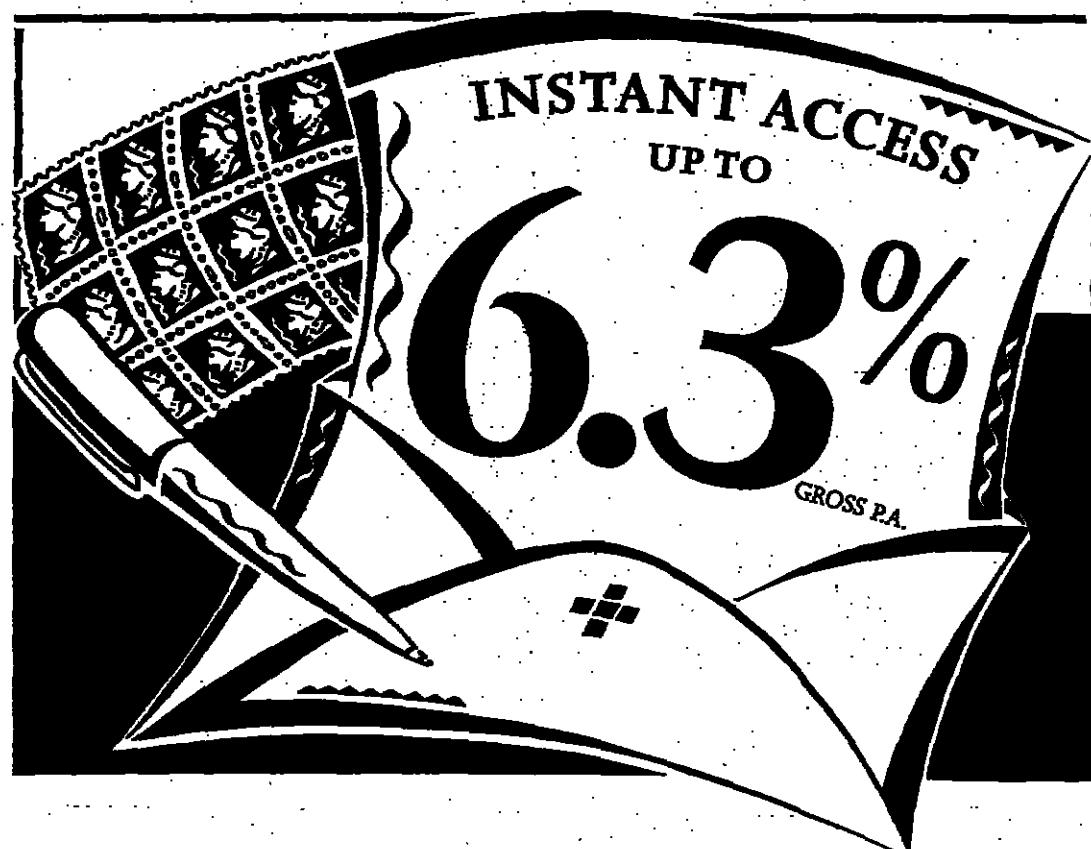
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I'm too tired to talk to Al Pacino

RICHARD YOUNG/REUTERS

Every age finds and trumpets its own virtues: the Victorians favoured a plodding, quiet integrity (at the price of institutionalised hypocrisy); for us, the quality most cherished is energy, boundless, galvanising, over-achieving energy. This is probably no more honest a proposition.

It says something that our idea of a virtue is a quality innocent of any moral content, but I suppose in an age of mass unemployment any show of, or occasion for, frenzied activity, would indeed be valued. Only losers are listless. But I think on this one I must join the sads: I own up, I'm tired, always.

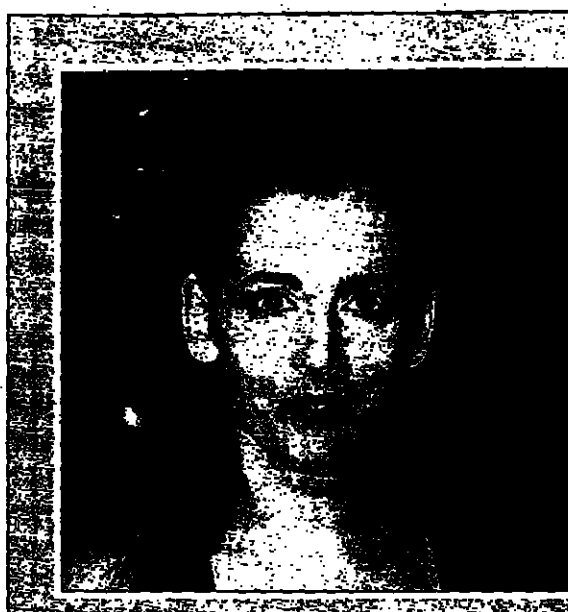
In fact, I'm so tired that, invited to a small, select and starry party (dramatis personae including Liam Neeson, Sir Ian McKellen and Al Pacino) after the Evening Standard British Film Awards on Sunday night, I was too tired to say. It's a pathetic excuse I know, and a peculiarly subversive one.

To own up to being tired (too tired, even, to genuflect, without stumbling, at the altar of super-celebrity) is to sin against the contemporary spirit. I try not to moan, publicly at any rate. I do know I'm not mining coal, and some sense of what is fitting generally keeps me quiet.

But privately, I'm afraid to say, I enumerate and itemise my exhaustion ad nauseam. The thing is, when everyone else is going around bulging and bristling with dynamism, one cannot help but become inordinately taken up with one's own lack of it. And it has become something of an obsession of mine.

I, along with most of the population (as has recently been revealed) am not particularly numerate, but when I go out, as the evening progresses, I rapidly calculate the number of hours I am likely to sleep.

How much time have I got left? If I go home now, I will be asleep by X. Will I get two or three hours until I'm next awake? How many hours will I get after that? Just how tired will I be tomorrow? This panic-struck count-



NIGELLA LAWSON,
finding herself
counting the minutes
before she can slip
away from a celebrity
party and go home to
bed, wonders if she is the
only one who will own
up to feeling utterly
exhausted all the time

down takes on the properties of some internal station platform clock, each minute clacking down and with it issuing its shuddering threat.

I have taken to asking everyone I see how tired they are. Everyone else seems just so full of what they're doing. If I managed the half of it I'd be exhausted. I'm not talking about coping: we all cope, no choice there. But how come everyone else seems to be so chirpy about it? You do too much, I was told. No wonder you're tired. But I don't do too much. Most people do more than me. It's just that what I do is given a public airing, so it is witnessed by more people.

I used to comfort myself with the idea that those miraculously powered women who are up at six every morning, in bed after twelve and busy non-stop in between, are to be pitied as neurotics, rather than admired. But I have had to be honest and realise that being inefficient or exhausted is no guarantee that one is a serene and wonderful human being. On the

contrary, my tiredness, I do see, has blossomed into a neurosis in its own right.

And if I publicise it now, it's because it strikes me that it is actually a neurotic tic shared by nearly everyone. The show of energy is, has to be, all a front: own up, please, you're all tired really. Frankly, I suspect most of those blethering on about food intolerances and obscure syndromes that make them sluggish are probably just tired. It just feels better, more in tune with the times, if they characterise their condition medically.

Acquiring energy is, these days, more important than acquiring riches.

(But I suppose that, in turn, is just part of the self-absorption that passes for spirituality.) And even with my open cynicism about the fashionable pseudo-sciences I read, rapt, about how I should eat more raw food, drink more water, walk more, rest more, smile more, cry more. Energy is the great holy grail of modern times. But I suppose if we were less tired we

wouldn't prize energy so much. Greek gods were, after all, tall and blond because real Greeks were, and are, short and swarthy.

Actually, I blame the Americans here. And I don't mean the present day sharp-suited sisterhood either, but Henry James Americans, Edith Wharton Americans, the girls with spirit and gutsiness and raw life force, the ones we've all been copying ever since. I have no desire to go back to a pallid Victorian passivity, but I sometimes wish there was a bit more lying about on chaises-longues written into the contemporary script.

Now we're all meant to be buzzing around doing things. I have to make marmalade once I've finished writing this. When I say I have to, what I mean is that I've bought the oranges and if I don't get down to it today, they'll rot and I'll have to throw them away. Like a lot of permanently exhausted people, I take on too much out of a sense of shame at my own lassitude. But actually, let's be honest here, making marmalade doesn't take very much energy. The oranges do most of the work. I don't have to do much to them. So why should the prospect so fill me with exhaustion? It's not as if doing nothing (an often plumped-for option) leaves one particularly refreshed.

Perhaps this is just an age thing, though: old people, I notice, have so much more energy than the rest of us. One of my aunts refers contemptuously, if inelegantly, to "the knackered generation": the young, she insists, are always tired.

I think I'm going to console myself with that one, and I suggest you do, too. It is such a comfort to think that these diminishing reserves of energy are, in fact, a sign of enduring youth.



Off to the party... Liam Neeson and Al Pacino. Nigella Lawson was too exhausted to stay

THE great unspoken truth about Monday night's *Panorama* about working mothers and the welfare of their children is that its findings, far from dispiriting, were extremely encouraging. We should be feeling immensely cheered by it all. The reason? The children who were found to do best of all groups were those of mothers who worked part-time. Since families with mothers who work part-time are now in the majority, we can conclude that modern trends support the greatest happiness of the greatest number.

In a way, the difficulty is, everyone is right, up to a point. I agree with Janet Daley when she says we must say the unsayable, and with Libby Purves, too, when she says we must just grit our teeth and do our best and stop agonising. The more defensive take the line that any questioning of family life and the working practices

of women constitutes a sexist attack in itself. I see their point, too. But whatever: there are enough views in the ring already without my throwing mine in again here.

One other thing, though: *Panorama* cheerfully drew a correlation between happiness and exam success. Of course poor performance can, and often does, point to a problem at home. But in my experience, in the sort of high-achieving families focused on, the ambition to succeed academically at all costs is more often than not the sign of the unhappy, unconfident child who feels the need to earn parental approval.

I know the league-table approach to human fulfilment is an ideologically current one, but the welfare of our children must surely be seen as more than a set of exam results.

Homesick for the wilderness

Never mind the patriotism: feel the lion. The Conservatives chose a lion as a poster hero, and it is compelling, not as a symbol of Britain but as a symbol of lion kind. Because lion compel. I know, I've been charged by one.

Nothing seizes the mind like a lion. In Africa I swap stories of great sightings and terrifying encounters. At favourite meeting places, all the talk is of life: a small scrap of feathers never seen before; the wonder of getting really close to something really big. Generally, it must be said, lion.

But there is a terrible thing about conservationists. When they turn to outsiders, they put on their gloom'n'doom faces. It becomes a sacred duty to make everybody really, really miserable. Watch a wildlife programme, revel in the big, the fierce, the cuddly, the truly wild. But do so with your hand on the off-switch, because sooner or later comes the sting, the determined turning of delight into misery: "But even here, in this paradise, the seeds of destruction..."

Now I am in favour of paradise, but not the one for fools. Facts must be faced. But — being a missionary myself — I believe that the big card in

The lion symbolises the wilderness in all of us; in its preservation lies our sanity, says Simon Barnes



A symbol of lion kind — the Conservatives' election poster

conservation is not the horror of the thousand imminent extinctions, but the glory of the life we have left.

I remember thinking these thoughts a year ago, on a train heading deep into west Wales. On February 15 1996, a tanker, the *Sex Empress*, hit the rocks and bathed the coast in oil and I was off to write a jolly piece about it all. It was to be a filthy and stinking day, the latest in a diminishing series of final warnings.

The dead and oiled gull-lemot, the black duck, a scoter, swimming hard with only its neck protruding from the stinking, glooping sea: a bird going down with all hands. The disaster needed to be understood. I was glad to be there, glad to be writing about it. There is a time and place for gloom and doom, and for anger, too.

Sudden disaster is vivid. It is important to make the creeping insidious disasters of day-to-day living just as vivid. But there is more to conservation than disaster. The most vivid thing about extinction is not the imminent death but the current life.

The other day, I heard a scrap of wild, wild song: mistle thrush, the first of the incipient

spring. And I snatched my cap from my head and hurried it briefly skywards, in delight: the breaking of the winter's shackles, the wild cry of a wild bird. I wish I could share that

There is a greater conservation sermon in a single fragment of song than in a million words of disaster.

I learnt bird-song late in life, but I had the best tutors in the world: Baron Robert Sijmstedt, the Zambian ornithologist, and my host during my sabbatical in the Luangwa Valley, and Jeremy Sorensen, former warden of the RSPB reserve at Minsmere, breeding place of the famous avocets. Minsmere reaches its 50th anniversary this year: now there's a conservation sermon for you. Conservation success needs cheering even more than the disasters need booting.

Music moves us all: and so does wildlife. Some, lucky in opportunity or appetite, can develop this innate capacity for being touched. The mistle thrush, the Goldcrest variations may leave you cold, but there

is scarcely a soul that can resist the chorus of the *Ninth Symphony* — they used it for the European football championship last summer — or the chorus of lion.

Time and again I have seen it. People who go to Africa from mere curiosity, a need to see, do it and get the T-shirt — only to find themselves moved beyond their understanding.

Lion on a kill close enough to touch. Leopard, belly-down, caught in the spotlight but continuing his hunt undisturbed. Elephant charging towards us, and we on foot, standing our ground and turning the animal back with a single 'handclap. Or around the campfire, the sound of a full pride chorus: shaking the earth all around, and they but a hundred yards off as they sing their *Ode to Joy*.

What is it in this wilderness that reaches people, moves them, ravishes them? Danger is an aspect of it, yes, a small but important ingredient, like the Tabasco in a Bloody Mary. A good Bloody Mary kicks like a giraffe, a kick that can slay a lion.

Whence the vodka, whence the addition, whence the kick? Explain music to the deaf, colour to the blind. The fact is that the history of the human race has been a prolonged attempt to deny the truth that greets us every time we remove our clothes: that we are animals.

That is why we need wilderness — to be at home in. Once humans lived in terrified, besieged enclaves surrounded by wilderness. Now it is wilderness that exists in threatened pockets, surrounded by rampaging civilisation. Humanity has conquered. We have succeeded not wisely but too well.

The wilderness we have left, and the wild beasts that live there, are more than a delight. They are what keep us sane. We should be inspired to save them not by duty but joy. For we are a species homesick for wilderness.

● *Rogue Lion Safari* by Simon Barnes, published by HarperCollins, £12.99

The most vivid thing about extinction is current life

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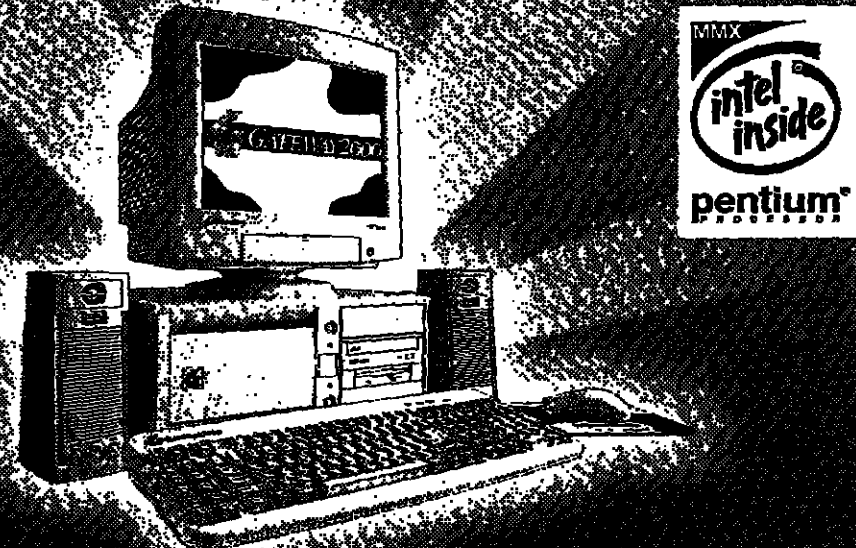
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Alan Coren



My clandestine wartime activities have stayed secret, until now

At the height of the Korean War, I was an agent for the Government. It was difficult, dirty, sometimes dangerous work — open only to volunteers — but someone had to do it, and I was proud when, from the handful who had put their names forward, mine was selected. What I had to do, when so commanded, was go into the lavatories, bend down, and look through the gap at the bottom of each cubicle door to see if there was a boy in it. If there was, I would first attempt to identify him from his shoes, but, should that fail, I would stand up, tap on the door, and cry: "Who are you?" Upon receiving the response "Who wants to know?", I would roundly declare, "I am the 3a lavatory monitor." For so I was. I was delegated to look under lavvy doors because boys asking to be excused often did not come back in the time the teacher believed to be required. I was then sent to find out why.

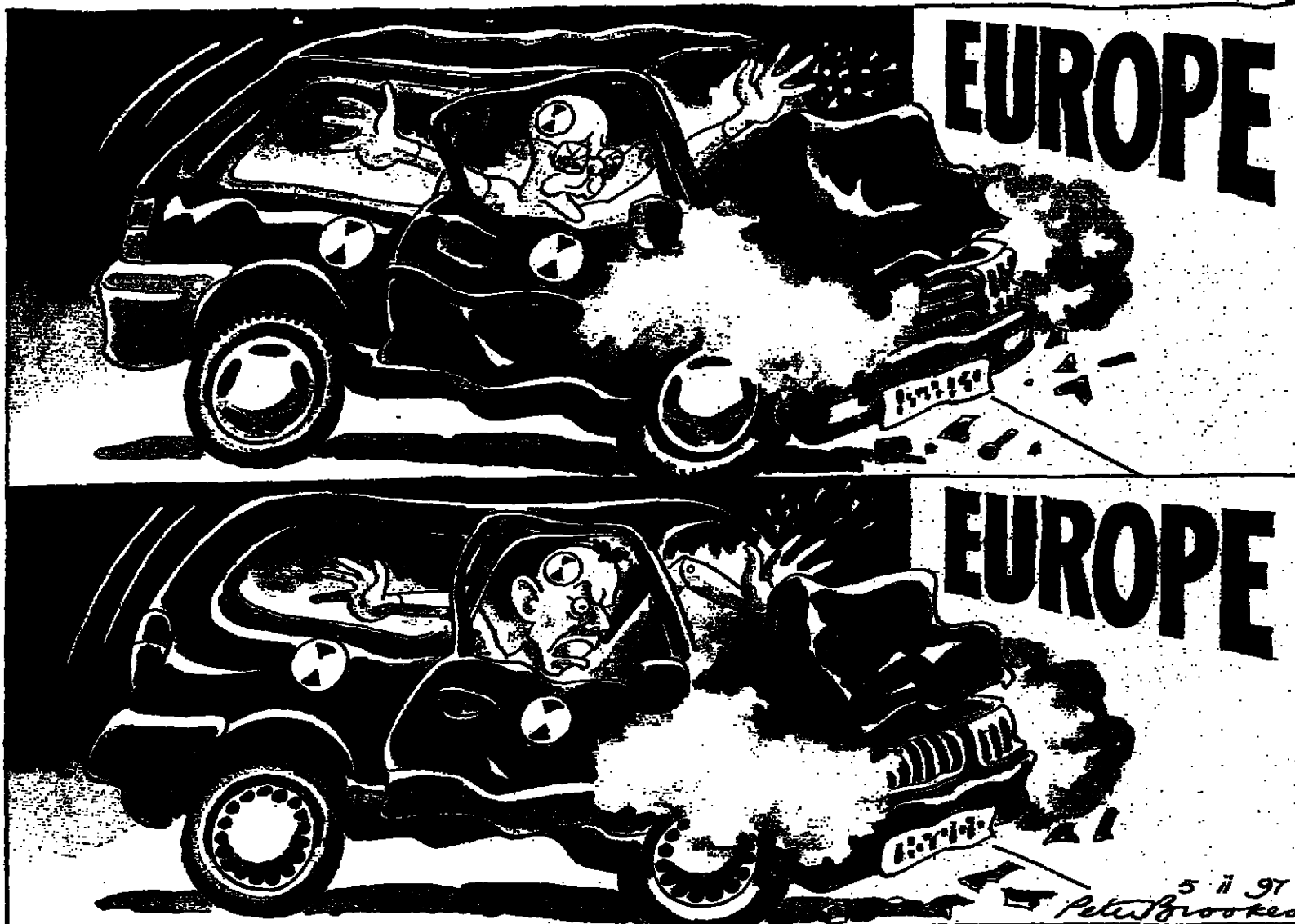
I have not, for various reasons, spoken of this before, and do so now only because these credentials will endorse my entry into the education debate now being so heatedly contested between the two main parties. The Tories, as you know, believe that the multitudinous crises in British schools could all be resolved by the general reintroduction of the Combined Cadet Force, bringing with it not only topcops children could see their faces in, but Lee Enfields with which they could cut down, say, a drug-dealer or inadequate teacher from 400 yards; while new Labour has committed itself, predictably, to the softer but no less inspired solution of putting every pupil into a nice new blazer, cap and tie, all smartly embroidered with the school motto. Each party views its policy as an infallible means not only of instantly reintroducing everything from discipline, esprit de corps, personal pride, respect for authority, clean ears and really terrific GCSE results, but also of preparing children for the adult world beyond, especially if they intend going into the SAS, on the one hand, or catwalking, on the other.

However, while there is clearly much to be said for both solutions to the present educational malaise, neither is quite the panacea it purports to be, since each system suffers from an inflexibility likely to exclude many pupils. These schemes are also, given the cost of grenades and worsted, huge potential burdens on the taxpayer. Allow me, therefore, to advance a third policy with the benefits of both and the demerits of neither. It is the reintroduction of the school monitor.

Let us go back to 1952. To what has been called the Golden Age of Monitoring. There were blackboard monitors, prepared, for the sake of others, to spend their days looking like little old flour millers, and inkwell monitors likewise prepared to face the wrath of mothers who had sent them off in white and got them back in blue, there were milk monitors, as adroit of crate, quick of straw, and vigorous of mop as they were alert to the countless wiles of the lactophile, window monitors whose deft poles no jammed transome could long withstand, dinner-queue monitors able to keep 500 jabbering gluttons in lines that would put Grand National starters to shame, there were break monitors and kit monitors and book monitors and bell monitors and...

And now there are no monitors. A system which, at no cost whatever, taught service, order, discipline, leadership, responsibility, social and communication skills, to say nothing of countless practical techniques which would be of incalculable value in later life, has gone forever. My research among teaching friends brought only shrieks of terror at the very thought did I have any idea of the potential ructions attendant upon subjecting a child to ignominious manual labour, chalk dust in the lungs, window pole poking someone's eye out, bell falling on foot, did I realise that a cubicle pupil who had had his shoes looked at would, at the end of months of expensive counselling, unquestionably be entitled to several thousand pounds in compensation?

But all that is precisely the situation we have to change, if we want only exam results to equal any in the EU, but also a citizenship of quality. Ask anyone who knows me, and they will unhesitatingly attest that looking under lavatory doors made me the man I am today.



WHICH DUMMY SUFFERS THE MOST DAMAGE?

Choice down the Tube

The Underground is a victim of the Treasury's triumph over tax and spend

The outcome of this year's great political contest is no longer in doubt. The Treasury, under the firm leadership of Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown, has won. The outcome was uncertain throughout last summer. Fierce battles were fought in Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet, in secret Whitehall committees and meetings. Blood has rarely seeped under doors. But recent decisions on taxes, public spending, yachts and privatisation have indicated victory. The forthcoming election between "Tories" and "Labour" is phoney. The Roundheads have won.

Defeat sits heavy on the shoulders of the Cavaliers, led by John Major and Tony Blair. They are similar in ideology and outlook. They like spending taxes on popular causes, and believe strongly in the capacity of central government to do good. Though they would vehemently deny it, they march into battle under the same banners: "Tax and Spend" and "The Man in Whitehall Knows Best". The Roundheads, under Mr Clarke and Mr Brown, are a grimmer party. Their holy text is the Treasury view. They loathe tax-and-spend. They hold that the taxpayers' money belongs properly to the taxpayer. Government (apart from the Treasury) cannot be trusted with this money, and its agents must be baulked at every turn. The old Labour motto, "Squeeze the rich until the pips squeak", has been discarded. The new motto is "Squeeze the public sector until it screams for privatisation".

A fortnight ago, the Clarke (or Tory) wing of the Roundheads suffered a rare reverse over who should pay for a new Royal Yacht. The Cavaliers insisted the money come from the taxpayer. The monarchy was widely supported. The taxpayers would applaud. Mr Clarke was overruled. But Mr Brown saw his ally in distress and came immediately to his rescue. Do not worry, he said. Labour would not pick up this bill. A subsidised yacht was dead in the water. A friend in need was a friend indeed.

This was the latest in a run of triumphs. Last November Mr Brown insisted that under Labour there must be no change in the Treasury's two-year public spending totals for each department, set out in Mr Clarke's Budget. There would also be no change in borrowing targets and no increase in taxes. A Labour government would be in the straitjacket designed, measured and made for the Tory government. This

extraordinarily strict line is holding, as any Shadow minister who dares breathe a word about extra spending knows to his cost.

Mr Brown has attended the Treasury charm school. He already wears the frozen frown of a man who has stood before a mirror practising a dozen ways of saying No. He never knowingly smiles in public. Roundheads do not smile. As their patron saint, Margaret Thatcher, memorably said, "In politics there are no final victories". There is only another battle round the corner.

Yesterday, another duly appeared. It is over whether or not to privatise the London Underground. On one side is the Treasury, implacable for privatisation. It regards the Underground as a hell-hole of public finance, a down escalator of profligacy. The management is incompetent, the unions are venal. The Underground wheedled £2 billion out of the Exchequer ten years ago for the Jubilee Line, and it will get not a penny more. The wounds of that defeat of the Treasury are still raw.

To the Treasury's men of faith, there is no half-way house between the public sector and privatisation. To them, the public utilities were the plague rats of the 1970s. Privatisation is the only cure. However costly the sale, however exploitative the private owner, however outrageous the fares, the profits, the perks — private ownership offers the only escape. What is in the public sector is wasteful, unloved and a covert or overt charge on the Exchequer. So says Mr Clarke. Amen murmurs Mr Brown.

Over against them are now assembled the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, most of his Cabinet colleagues and most of the Shadow Cabinet — Cavaliers all. To them, the Underground is a public institution, much-loved but desperately in need of investment. Privatisation is an irrelevance and, above all, an unpopular one. Let the Tube borrow the money from the private sector and it will richly repay the

investment in profits and votes. Does the Treasury not care for votes?

The answer is no. To most of the public this dispute is devoid of sense. Why should borrowing to run a profitable (private) train in the open air be a dynamic productive investment, while borrowing for a knockdown price and with no indication of the future cost of revenue subsidies? Like all Mr Blair's commitments, it came with a vague let-out clause on its tail. He did not say he would not sell.

The trouble is that Sir George lost that battle some time ago. The Underground has not been successful in putting together a borrowing package of line building and renewal to meet Audit Office definitions of private risk. Sir George has had to concede *de jure* privatisation. He is fighting a rear-guard action, pleading in a leaked letter to keep the nationalised framework in place. To him the sole purpose of privatisation is to raise cash for the £1 billion of investment that London Underground says it needs to maintain existing services. Fares must be fixed, concessions retained and assurances given on safety, service standards and new rolling stock. His letter to the Treasury pleads for privatisation takings of £1.2 to £2 billion, to be put back into the system.

In other words, Sir George is struggling to agree with Mr Blair that any injection of private finance into the Underground should benefit only the Underground, not the Treasury. The Cavaliers are struggling to keep their line even in retreat. They may be right, but I doubt if they will win. If the Treasury succeeds in getting Underground privatisation into the Tory manifesto, and then getting Labour to implement it as the only way of rebuilding the Tube, its triumph will be complete. Mr Blair's remarks yesterday seem to leave him no option. Such an outcome is astonishing. At the general election it is now clear that voters will have no choice of whether or not to pay higher taxes for better services, nor a choice of nationalised versus privatised public utilities. This must be the first time in modern history that these choices have been denied the electorate. The real contest is over. A phoney one commences.

Simon Jenkins

The Treasury draws no distinction between borrowing to sustain a profitable public service and borrowing to cover, say, a deficit on the housing benefit budget. The public sector cannot borrow privately without "crowding out" virtuous private investment. Such borrowing is permitted only where it can be proved to be risk-bearing, which in the public sector is not easy. No matter that many private monopolies are hardly risk-bearing. No matter that all monopolies have their rates of return, and thus risk, mostly determined by public sector regulators. A dogma is a dogma. The Inquisition did not quibble with heretics. It had them put to the sword.

Recently, the Treasury has added another argument to its armoury. It regards public-sector investment as inherently polluted, because public servants (other than those in the Treasury) suffer a genetic disorder. They cannot manage a wheelbarrow. Look at the British Library. Look at the old Post Office. On this argument, even the most outrageous private monopoly is preferable to a public one. Private utilities can be regulated, controlled and taxed but never allowed back into the public sector. Besides, public monopolies embrace not just managers but unions. Labour surely does not want to revive that jinx.

Leave Ofsted alone

Chris Woodhead defends his work and independence

My third report as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools was published yesterday. It draws on evidence gathered in more than 5,000 inspections, and the story it tells is inevitably complex. There are real strengths in our education service, but there are also stubborn weaknesses. The obvious conclusion is that we must build upon the former and eradicate the latter.

For this to happen, we need hard information about what is happening in schools. This report supplies. In addition, we must, individually and collectively, be willing to challenge deeply rooted prejudices and cherished theories about the state of our schools.

Extreme and simplistic reactions help no one and lead nowhere. Our schools are not blackboard jungles. Pupils' behaviour and attitudes are, despite the publicity generated by The Ridings, generally good in both primary and secondary schools. Standards of achievement are poor in only a small proportion of schools. The percentage of lessons where teaching is judged to be unsatisfactory or poor (about 16 per cent) is an improvement on last year's figures (18 per cent).

Nevertheless, this figure remains high, which shows that the old orthodoxies are still applied in too many classrooms. Substantial improvements in standards are needed in about one in 12 primary schools in teaching 5 to 7-year-olds, in about one in 6, in teaching 7 to 11-year-olds, and in about one in ten secondary schools. In particular, it needs to be emphasised (once again) that standards of literacy and numeracy remain too low. It is still the case that pupils in some primary schools are not making the progress in these essential skills that they must if they are to succeed in education and adult life.

I do not expect today's headlines to do justice to this complexity. Neither am I sanguine about the quality of the debate that will follow. There will be those (as we saw last weekend) who will question the reliability of our evidence and will allege statistical sleight of hand. Others will say that it is unfair and ridiculous to blame teachers when problems stem from shortage of resources, low morale and a lack of parental support. Conversely, the argument will be that state education, whatever the report might say about progress, is in terminal decline. This, it will be alleged, is the fault of teachers, who have allowed anarchy, social, moral, spiritual and cultural, to rule.

I am caricaturing the arguments, but only a little. The imminence of the election means that the polarisation of positions and the bitterness of attacks on the Office of Standards in Education (Ofsted) will intensify. Defenders of the educational faith will continue to dismiss any attempt to speak honestly about problems or to question the silliness of so much education-speak. They will claim it is yet another savage attack on a profession that is as innocent as it is down-trodden. And the odd politician may ride roughshod over the niceties of our judgments in an attempt to grab the headlines and woo the electorate. Rumours will multiply about how the inspection service could be restructured after the election.

In my view, there is no need to rethink the inspection process. The argument that schools need more support and less inspection misses the point that a rigorous external review is the best advice schools can be given and the only "support" most need. A good inspection raises the right questions and respects heads and governors as capable of finding their own answers. Failing schools, of course, need more intervention, but it would be a grave mistake to suppose that external experts are needed to decide everything for schools about curriculum organisation and teaching methods. Some £134 million is already available to schools to help them act on inspection recommendations.

My inspectors will continue work to ensure that all schools are inspected every four years. We shall continue to monitor the quality of inspections themselves and of our reports on each school. And in recognition of the way university education departments and local education authorities help to define the ideology of teaching, we shall spend more time than hitherto investigating the ideas and practical approaches they promote.

Above all, we shall guard against what I believe is the greatest threat to our ability to tell an accurate story about the nation's schools: the ever-present temptation to inspectors to go native. "Professional inspectors can easily", as the Citizen's Charter puts it, "become part of a closed professional world."

The reluctance of some inspectors to grade and confront weak teachers may be a manifestation of this. We have already written to our contractors to remind them to be on their guard. If further action is needed, I shall take it. An independent inspectorate must be independent. There can be no hint of bias when difficult judgments have to be made. No government, whatever its political colour, must interfere in our work. On this independence depends our ability to tell the complex truth about the strengths and weaknesses of English schools.

The author is the Chief Inspector of Schools and head of Ofsted.

Suitable boy

CHRIS PATTEN has not been idle during his sojourn in Hong Kong. In fashion circles they talk of little other than the collection of bespoke suits he has amassed out there: 23 at the last count.

Sam the Tailor, an Indian called Mamu Melwani whose prices vary between £500 and £2,500 per suit, is Patten's dressmaker. And after Michael Howard's announcement this week that up to 8,000 Indians and Pakistanis in Hong Kong are to be given British passports, he has become the toast of the town: many believe his incisive lobbying among clients won the concession.

Patten was guest of honour at Sam's wedding recently, where he said: "A man's best friend is his tailor." Sam has also dressed members of the Royal Family, who fax him measurements and collect the finished garment when convenient. Perhaps not coincidentally, the Queen too has expressed sympathy for Pakistanis and Indians in Hong Kong.

Pep talk

LORD LAWSON OF BLABY, a man now of lank frame but lus-

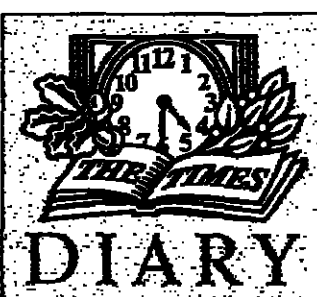
trous locks, has moved on from his diet-meister days to become a television star.

The former Chancellor is to perform in two 30-second advertisements for M&G, plugging personal equity plans of the type he introduced in his profligate Budget of 1986.

These are busy days for the Fraser family. Last week, Flora Fraser, daughter of Lady Antonia



"The Ofsted inspectors are here, Mr Squeers"



Painter and the late Sir Hugh Fraser, MP, was paired off with Peter Soros, nephew of the financier George, in a London register office. Now her sister, Natasha Fraser, has announced that she is to marry Giovanni Cavassoni in Paris in July. I trust that the good news will lead a lighter note to the work of their stepfather, the playwright Harold Pinter.

Brighton up

ON THE lacrosse field where once they painted a full-sized replica of the priapic giant of Cerne Abbas, the young ladies at Rodean School are organising a well-coming party for their new headmistress, Patricia Methan, whose appointment will be announced today. Rotten tomatoes and stink bombs are planned. Mrs Methan, a robust sort who

warns she is no pushover, is to replace the elegant Ann Longley, who retires in July after 13 successful years. Rodean is where the actress Sarah Miles claims, as a young girl, to have developed an unhealthy crush on the matronly head-girl of her day, Lynda Chalker. Famed in the old days for its caprice pudding, the school has flourished under Mrs Longley.

Stepping in

JUST AS the retired general Cincinnatus left his plough to save Rome, so Rex Marriott, 76, is coming out of retirement once more to save his local Conservative Party. Marriott has already returned twice to serve as agent to Tory candidates, and is now taking over the re-election campaign for William Hague, the MP for Richmond, Yorkshire, and Secretary of State for Wales.

He replaces David Moyte, 54, who was forced to resign after Welsh nationalists invaded his office and found pornographic magazines. At 76, the Second World War veteran's top-shelf days are felt to be behind him.

After my report that Neil Hamilton MP commandeered his constituency's Conservative Association leaflet in Touch to defend himself against sleaze allegations,

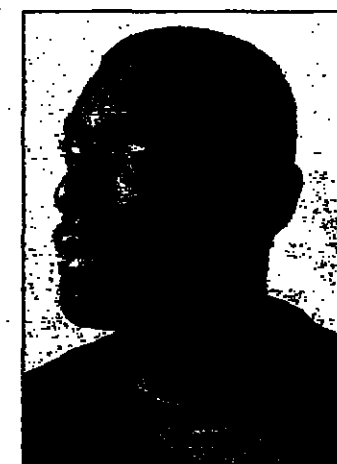


Cusk and Phillips: new loves, new novels

I have received a stiff letter from his agent Peter McDowell. Hamilton is planning to pay for the pamphlets himself, McDowell explains, even though they went out under the official Tory banner to every household in the constituency. They will now set him back some £400.

Stepping out

CARYL PHILLIPS and Rachel Cusk, novelists both, have started living together. In an interview on Saturday, Phillips, 38, revealed that he no longer sleeps alone, say-



Cusk and Phillips: new loves, new novels

ing that he lies in bed listening to his partner's breathing, which he finds "strangely comforting". His new girlfriend is Miss Cusk, 30, who was married for less than 18 months before leaving her husband, a banker, late last year, having described marriage as "a progression, an altering state". The new couple both have novels out this year. With Phillips by her side, I hope that Cusk can rediscover the success which has eluded her since her Whitbread prize-winning first novel.

P.H.S



The VW Polo, left, showed little cabin damage in the 40mph test; the Nissan Micra, centre, and the Rover 100, right, were safest for pedestrians, but the Rover came off worst in the crash test, the airbag missing the driver's head

Small car favourites fail European safety crash test

ITAIN'S best-selling small cars came badly in the first crash tests designed to inform European consumers which models are the safest.

None of the seven "super-minis" — Volkswagen Polo, Rover 100, Ford Fiesta, Vauxhall Corsa, Nissan Micra, Renault 10 and Fiat Punto — achieved the four-star rating devised by scientists at the Transport Research Laboratory. The Micra and Polo were awarded three stars; the Corsa, Punto, Clio and Fiesta two; and the Rover came off worst with one.

After publication of the first results in the European New Car Assessment Programme, known as Euro-NCAP, car-makers condemned the tests as unreliable and misleading. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said that the million crash programme had serious

flaws and used methods that were not scientifically accepted.

The cars were bought by the Department of Transport, which financed the test programme. It was backed by the AA and the RAC, the Consumers' Association and the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, motoring's governing body in Europe. The tests provide, for the first time, a guide to which cars are likely to perform best in a crash and which are the most "pedestrian friendly". The findings will be made available throughout the European Union.

The research laboratory at Crowthorne, Berkshire, used two tests which, under EU regulations, become mandatory for all new cars in October next year. The cars were crashed at 40mph into a barrier set at a slight angle and were subjected to

Car manufacturers are on collision course with the Government over new safety tests which are soon to be extended to medium-range saloons, Kevin Eason reports

a side impact at 30mph. Engineers gauged the extent to which the impact damaged the passenger cabins and whether equipment such as the steering wheel and dashboard hit test dummies in the driver and passenger seats. The Micra's cabin remained intact and the driver's door opened after the impact. On the Rover, the footwell moved back into the passenger compartment and the steering wheel was pushed towards the driver's chest; the airbag also missed the dummy driver's head. In addition, the

driver's door on the Rover split and had to be pried open with tools.

Although the Rover fared worst in the overall crash tests, it and the Micra were awarded two stars in a separate test to discover how badly pedestrians would be injured by the front of the car. The other five fared worse, gaining one star.

John Bowis, the Minister for road safety, said: "This is an important step forward in improving road safety. As this programme develops and more information on the safety levels of popular cars

becomes available, there is irresistible pressure placed on manufacturers to improve crashworthiness. Manufacturers who make extra efforts on safety will gain recognition."

The manufacturers were unhappy with the results and with the method of testing. Executives from ACEA, the association of European carmakers, flew in from Brussels to reject the findings, saying that carmakers put each of their models through up to 450 tests to comply with 47 EU design directives. They asked why only seven out of 27 super-minis on sale in Britain were tested and pointed out that the research laboratory conducted its offset test at 40mph when next year's legislation required a speed of 35mph.

Camille Blum, ACEA's secretary-general, said: "The European automobile

industry does not argue with the purpose of such initiatives, which is to enhance vehicle safety. It believes, however, that when vehicle safety information is made public, it should be accurate and comprehensive, otherwise it will be misleading and not lead to an improvement in road safety. The point is that motor vehicle and road safety is less simplistic than some would have us believe."

Further anguish may lie ahead for the industry, as tests have started on 11 of the best-selling medium-range cars; they include the Vauxhall Vectra, Ford Mondeo and Nissan Primera. The results are likely to be published in the summer and consumer groups believe fleet customers, who buy tens of thousands of such models, might change buying patterns if any model shows badly.



The two-seater Hawk jet is popular with pilots

Metal fatigue crack grounds 700 Hawks

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 700 British Aerospace Hawk trainers used by air forces around the world have been grounded after RAF engineers discovered a potentially dangerous fatigue crack in a vital control unit.

A routine maintenance check at RAF Valley in Anglesey revealed a crack in the housing of the powered flying control unit in the tail of one jet, prompting the RAF's chief engineer to issue an urgent notice to all Hawk operators to inspect the aircraft.

The problem was considered to be so serious that all RAF units that use the Hawk, including the Red Arrows aerobatic display team, were told not to fly until detailed checks could be carried out. Within hours similar advice had been sent to every country operating the aircraft.

By last night newer jets with fewer than 600 flying

hours, mainly those with foreign air forces, had been inspected and cleared to fly again.

The Hawk is one of Britain's most successful exports and has been sold to 14 foreign air forces. The RAF has 100 as trainers which can be fitted with Sidewinder missiles for air defence.

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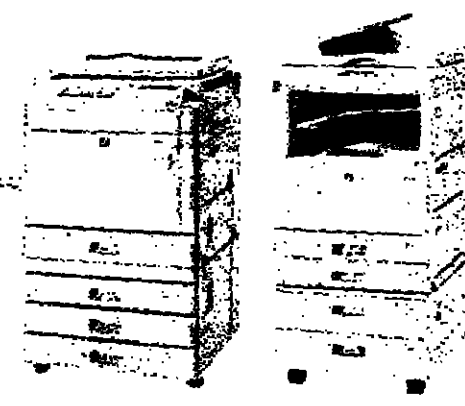
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Howard relents over Hong Kong passports

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD announced a government retreat yesterday on the granting of full British passports to thousands of Indians and Pakistanis in Hong Kong.

The Home Secretary was forced to capitulate after strong pressure from the Foreign Office, Downing Street, and Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong. The decision comes only days before Malcolm Rifkind, the foreign secretary, flies to the colony.

Up to 8,000 non-Chinese ethnic minority citizens, mainly Pakistani and Indian, could have been rendered stateless after Hong Kong is handed back to China on June 30. They will now be given the right of abode in Britain.

The Indian community in Hong Kong is planning a thanksgiving service in the colony on Sunday.

The Liberal Democrats welcomed the decision, which they had campaigned for since 1993, but accused the Tories of having backed down in an attempt to woo ethnic minority voters at the general election.

Yesterday's announcement came only one week before a Tory-backed Private Member's Bill intended to provide passports for the non-Chinese citizens was due to go before the Commons. The British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill was given an

unopposed second reading in the House of Lords last month.

Mr Howard, in a Commons written reply, said: "I have carefully reviewed the position of the solely British ethnic minorities in Hong Kong in the light of expressions of concern in both Houses of Parliament here and in Hong Kong that their nationality status will be uncertain after June 30."

"It is clear that the assurances which they have been given over a number of years have not allayed this concern. I therefore intend to make provision enabling them to apply for registration as British citizens, giving them right of abode in the UK after June 30, 1997."

He said that he expected most of the 8,000 to stay in Hong Kong, where they would have a right to residence. Mr Howard had for months been under pressure from Mr Patten. He argued that Britain had a duty to the 8,000 citizens, who at present enjoy only visiting rights to Britain. Mr Patten had an influential ally in Mr Rifkind, who will be his guest next week. Beijing had said that the non-Chinese minorities would not be granted citizenship in Hong Kong after the handover.

Many of the Indians and Pakistanis have long ties with Britain, some dating from the establishment of the colony more than 150 years ago. There

were 2,000 Indian troops there when the British flag was first raised.

Many Tory MPs argued that they could not be left behind on June 30, when the last Britons sail away and the British flag comes down. Sir Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend East, said that Britain had a "debt of honour" to repay. Sir Patrick Cormack, Tory MP for Staffordshire South, who was due to present the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill in the Commons, said: "These people have given and loyal distinguished service to the Crown. It really would have been a blot on our honour and reputation had we withdrawn on June 30 without giving them the safeguards and the guarantees that they deserve."

There was cross-party support for the decision but Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, suspected that the imminence of the general election had dictated the timing. "Mr Major's pitch for the ethnic vote lies in this change of heart."

Kawalram Sital, chairman of the Council of Hong Kong Indian Associations, said: "Through all this we have kept our faith in the traditional British sense of fairness and I am glad to see our faith was not misplaced." The council's secretary, Krishnan Bihari Rathil, said that "very few" of those given passports would settle in Britain.



Hamilton to demand his say in public

By ARTHUR L. SATLEY

THE former Trade Minister Neil Hamilton is preparing to frustrate John Major in his wish to have the biggest cash-for-questions inquiry completed before the general election.

Mr Hamilton is understood to be determined to defend himself at a public hearing after publication of a report into claims that he accepted gifts in return for tabling questions in the Commons. The report, by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, is due to be finished at the end of this month. The Select Committee on Standards and Privileges will then decide whether to hold further hearings before reporting to the Commons on what, if any, punishment should be imposed.

When Mr Major called for the inquiry in October he forecast that the report would be published "well this side of a general election". But Mr Hamilton's colleagues say that he will demand the chance to put forward his case on oath and in public in an attempt to clear his name.

MPs on the committee fear that further hearings could delay the conclusion until the next Parliament. One Tory said: "This must not drag on, whatever the outcome. Hamilton must stand at the general election either with his name cleared or with his electorate knowing the extent to which the allegations have been upheld."

Study the books before banking on tax promises

The Tories are right to claim that Labour's sums do not add up, but then neither do theirs. That is the view of virtually every non-partisan analyst. The pre-election debate on tax and spending is evasive and dishonest because it deals with symbols rather than substance. On that, Paddy Ashdown is right and he has, at least, publicly recognised the problem, even though so far he has only offered a partial answer. The basic and higher rates of income tax only matter in terms of headlines. They do not address the real issues about what activities government should undertake, how they should be financed and what this means for the overall tax burden.

Anyone with a serious interest in what they are likely to pay in tax in the next Parliament should start with the Budget Red Book and the subsequent report of the Treasury committee of the Commons. The latter underlines the over-optimistic public spending projections in the Budget, particularly for core welfare programmes. This even if the Tories were re-elected, spending programmes would probably have to be reviewed, and taxes raised, not least to reduce a level of public borrowing which is still too high.

Gordon Brown would therefore be constrained within a straitjacket from the start. In addition, he has sought to neutralise Tory attacks on tax and avoid the traps that Labour has fallen into in the past three elections. His relentless campaign to suppress any hint of a spending pledge culminated in his statement a fortnight ago promising that Labour would stick to existing spending targets for the next two years and ruling out any increase in the basic and higher rates. That is both understandable and necessary for electoral reasons. Anything else would have been interpreted as implying big tax increases, as happened in 1987 and 1992. While yesterday's ICM poll in *The Guardian* showed that half the public still believes that a Labour government would increase taxes, more people

think that the Tories would increase taxes as a whole a lot over the next five years than think Labour would.

But Labour's promises are implausible. It is not that it has £30 billion of hidden spending commitments, as the Tories claim, though there are several sizeable loopholes. The real problem is meeting existing targets. The Red Book spending plans already assume big changes in social security and more privatisation which Labour is against. Peter Lilley has challenged Labour to say how it would fill the gap in the social security budget given its opposition to changes in the lone parent premium and in the housing benefit system which should save hundreds of millions of pounds, starting in 1998-99. This is leaving aside the need to find extra money for health and schools.

Mr Brown has proposed a review of departmental budgets so that resources can be switched round. He accepts that this will take time to work through and some big programmes will have to be cut. No government would be wise to count on early savings from welfare reform.

Labour leaders have been careful to give themselves leeway by merely saying that nothing in their manifesto should mean higher taxes (apart from the windfall levy) and by not ruling out changes in tax allowances or capital and company taxes. But if a Labour government did cut back the value of tax allowances, it might be accused of breaking the spirit of pre-election pledges, even if it has observed their letter.

Before the election, Labour's problem is how to reconcile its caution on taxes and spending with trying to persuade voters that a Blair government could really make a difference to Britain. Labour has so far provided answers for the campaign rather than for government.

PETER RIDDELL

Tories dismiss talk of phantom by-election

THE Tories tried yesterday to dismiss suggestions that the Wirral South by-election might be abandoned for an early general election (Philip Webster writes).

In an apparent move to rule out a March general election, a senior official at Conservative Central Office said categorically that the by-election would go ahead on February 27. The Tories are trying to prevent their campaign in Wirral South from being derailed by charges from the Opposition that the voters are being presented with a phantom contest.

But Labour sources said that ministers had still failed to guarantee that it would go ahead on February 27, leaving anonymous officials to do their job for them.

In the Commons yesterday a Labour MP tried to tie down

John Major by asking for an assurance that the by-election would proceed. The Prime Minister said it was proceeding, neatly leaving open the option of abandoning it.

Calling off the by-election would be a serious option only if Mr Major intended to go for an early general election. Once that is called all pending by-elections fall. If the Wirral South poll is held as planned there will be insufficient time to stage the general election on March 20, one of the favoured dates of some strategists.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons Lord Ashdown, backbench debates involving government ministers to Ford, Hamilton, from 2.30pm. Scottish questions, debates followed by the Liberal Democrats on health and on primary and secondary education; backbench debates on issues of higher education. In the Lords debate on funding of political parties; Human Rights Bill, second reading.

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LABOUR'S INSPECTOR

Increasing unanimity on school standards is to be welcomed

In no other area of policy have the two main parties come together so far and so fast since Tony Blair became Labour leader than over the issue of school standards. In the old days Labour supported the teachers and the Tories backed the inspection service. Now there is near-unanimity and, in some areas, cross-fertilisation. Yesterday, the Conservatives developed two ideas which were originally Labour's, while Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, delivered his annual report safe in the knowledge that he would keep his job if Labour won.

Gillian Shepherd, Education Secretary, announced her plans for the first round of five-year-old tests, known as "baseline assessment" because they provide a base against which the subsequent performance of primary schools can be judged. First suggested by Labour, these ought to enable schools to be compared with each other, with due allowance made for the quality of their intake. In theory, parents will be able to see in which schools pupils make the biggest improvement.

Unfortunately, in a typical example of trimming from Mrs Shepherd, this admirable aim will not be achieved. Because the Education Secretary is unwilling to insist upon a standardised national test, schools will use different ones and parents will not be able to compare like with like. Given how simple and uncontroversial the proposed tests are — counting to ten, recognising letters, writing one's name and so on — it seems extraordinary that Mrs Shepherd has not demanded a uniform design. She accepts that "in due course" a national scheme would "suggest itself". Why not now?

Mrs Shepherd's announcement came, perhaps not coincidentally, on the day that Mr Woodhead published his annual report. The relationship between the two has its prickly moments: if Labour wins the

election, it would be helpful if David Blunkett and Mr Woodhead saw each other more as allies than rivals.

While the Chief Inspector has his political enemies (chief among whom is Don Foster, the misguided Liberal Democrat education spokesman), Messrs Blunkett and Blair have so far shown themselves to be supportive. The very confirmation that Mr Woodhead should stay in his post, despite complaints from the Left that he is too close to the Tories, is in itself a welcome gesture.

Mr Woodhead is exactly the lightning conductor that Labour would need if it were to have any success in reversing the culture of low standards and low expectations that the Chief Inspector so deplores. Mr Blunkett is fierce in his denunciation of poor teachers and schools; Mr Woodhead would be in a position to furnish the supporting evidence, and could absorb much of the inevitable flak from the teaching profession.

The danger for all Education Secretaries is that they come to identify themselves with the school system and become defensive about its faults. Then they are liable to see legitimate criticism by the Chief Inspector as politically embarrassing. For Mr Blunkett to succeed in his aims as Education Secretary, he would need to maintain for as long as possible a distance from the system over which he presided. This would also mean being prepared to criticise Labour local education authorities which were not up to scratch.

The best way to ensure this distance would be to guarantee the independence of Ofsted, over which Mr Woodhead presides, and to use Ofsted reports as ammunition in the battle against bad teachers and schools. So far Mr Blunkett has protected Mr Woodhead against ill-considered attacks from his own side. If he has any sense, he will continue to do so if he wins office.

PAKISTAN'S OPPORTUNITY

The economy must be put before political vengeance

Mian Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML) has won an unexpectedly decisive victory in the Pakistani elections — so decisive that it frees Mr Sharif to govern without currying favour with Pakistan's Islamist parties. If, as expected, the final count gives his party the two-thirds majority required to alter the constitution, he should also be in a position to reassert the authority of Parliament in relation to the President and the military. Both prospects — of firm one-party government instead of precarious coalitions and of a power shift in favour of elected politicians — will be welcomed by most educated Pakistani democrats.

If, which is far from certain, Mr Sharif uses power more wisely than he did as Prime Minister from 1990 to 1993, he has an opportunity to stabilise his economically, socially and politically bankrupt country. But this is an eagle's eye view of Pakistani politics; the majority of voters showed, by staying away from the polling booths, that they do not share the same perspective. Constitutional reform exercises their minds far less than deepening poverty, violent streets and the corruption and misgovernment hanging over the governing class.

They chose a politician whose dismissal on ground of corruption dates back four years rather than another, Benazir Bhutto, whose dismissal on the same grounds last November is fresh in the memory. Imran Khan's appeal as a fresh face evaporated — possibly because he lacked the money to buy voters to the polling booths but equally possibly, and encouragingly, because voters do not really want an Islamist government or the introduction of sharia.

But the electorate showed little faith that these elections would transform Pakistan. Voter apathy was the main enemy of all the parties contesting these elections; and apathy won more votes than any of them. Given the abysmal turnout, Mr Sharif's mandate is less than resoundingly convincing. As for Miss Bhutto, whose party lost all but a quarter of its parliamentary seats, whatever she may find to complain about in the conduct of the elections even she cannot dispute that this is a stinging defeat.

International observers found irregularities, but do not dispute the result. Sagely, Miss Bhutto appears to have withdrawn her campaign threat to boycott Parliament and take to the streets if defeated.

In return, Mr Sharif should be careful to ensure that any corruption charges brought against Miss Bhutto, her husband and associates are processed with exemplary respect for the rule of law. That must be part of the new start the voters have been promised; given the possibility that writs could be moved seeking to disqualify Mr Sharif under the new accountability laws introduced by President Leghari, it would also be prudent on his part. Above all, the last thing Pakistan can afford is time wasted in political score-settling.

The country is at the point of defaulting on its international debt. Half its factories are closed. The urban unemployed, particularly the young, are easy recruits for the violent feuding between Sunni and Shia. But the technocrats who have been running the country since November have taken many of the tough economic decisions that Miss Bhutto's Government skirted, drastically shrinking state spending and payrolls and introducing reforms to banking and the hopelessly skewed tax system. Mr Sharif has a reputation for erratic populism, but he is also a successful businessman. He should put his business instincts first and make the implementation of these reforms his absolute priority. Constitutional reform can wait.

THE SWISS WAR

Holocaust victims come closer to compensation

With the news that Britain and America are to halt the distribution of the remaining Nazi gold and look at ways of handing this over directly to Holocaust victims, Greville Janner has won a notable victory. As chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust it was he who persuaded the Foreign Office to reopen its archives on the gold looted by the Nazis and held for the past 50 years in the Bank of England. That report threw into sharp focus the cynical behaviour of Switzerland in its wartime dealing with the Nazis. The smug Swiss bankers were thrown on the defensive; Bern was forced to set up an unprecedented inquiry; and the long-suppressed claims of Jewish victims were finally publicly aired.

Mr Janner went further. He insisted that if the gold were returned directly to the 10 claimant governments, the chances of their entertaining subsequent individual claims by victims would be remote. He called instead for the gold to be handed over to the World Jewish Restitution Organisation which promises to give it directly to survivors or their families. He won the early backing of Malcolm Rifkind, and both he and the British Government have now, crucially, won the support of President Clinton and President Chirac.

There are difficulties. The first is that the governments long promised a windfall may still insist on the original postwar settle-

to say how much gold came from the Reichsbank's vaults and how much was originally non-monetary gold melted down and falsely stamped. The final obstacle is how the WIRO will itself trace remaining survivors, distinguish bogus claims and ensure that other, non-Jewish victims are also fairly compensated.

Britain and America have been considerably more sensitive in dealing with the gold deposited in their vaults than the Swiss have. Switzerland was pained at the outcry last year which accused it of complicity unworthy of a democracy. In light of the subsequent revelations and furtive behaviour by its top bankers, those charges seem mild. No country has been so maladroit in a matter so emotionally charged. Swiss bankers are unable to understand why they are held in contempt or why some Jewish groups have called for a boycott. Their reaction has been to order the shredding of the very documents that are meant now to be open for inspection and to accuse the outside world, and especially American Jewish groups, of an anti-Swiss campaign.

Berne has now set up two inquiries into its wartime dealings, and has, belatedly, offered to set up a fund for "victims of racism". But if any Swiss still share the view of their recent ambassador to Washington that they are engaged in a war with Jewish groups, attempts to clear Switzerland's name and

Tragic legacy of asylum closures

From the Reverend Dr Ian Bradley

Sir, How sad that it has taken the closure of the great Victorian asylums for their merits to be recognised and appreciated (report, February 1). Sad that still it is only the very rich who will henceforth benefit from their gracious surroundings and excellent amenities.

There have been few more misguided policies over the last two or three decades than the shutting down of large psychiatric hospitals and the decimating of their fragile and vulnerable inmates into the cheerless world of bed-and-breakfast lodgings, hostels and cardboard city. During a period as chaplain to a purpose-built Victorian asylum I witnessed the collapse of a remarkably coherent and supportive community, the demoralisation of a dedicated staff and the progressive run-down of services and facilities for patients.

Is it too late to hope that at least one political party will include in its manifesto in the coming election a commitment to reverse this disastrous policy and give back these magnificent and so unjustly maligned institutions to those for whom they were designed and built by our more humane and enlightened Victorian ancestors?

Yours faithfully,
IAN BRADLEY,
7 Strathkirk High Road,
St Andrews, Fife.
February 1.

Gibraltar's future

From Lord Thomas of Swynnerton

Sir, You are wrong to dismiss summarily the intelligent idea of shared sovereignty for the future of Gibraltar (leading article, February 3). It is on the contrary much the best approach to the matter, recalling that Spain is now both a member of NATO and the European Union. As Mr Mill Hancocks (letter, February 1) reminds us, a similar arrangement has existed for hundreds of years in Andorra.

The position might be different if Gibraltar continued to play an essential part in British defence policy; but it has not done so for a long time.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH THOMAS,
House of Lords.
February 3.

Mandatory sentences

From Lord Donaldson of Lynton

Sir, Judge Joseph Dean (letter, February 3) equates the mandatory loss of a driving licence with mandatory imprisonment.

The right to drive a motor vehicle is a privilege granted subject to conditions. Breach of the condition relating to alcohol forfeits the licence.

Liberty is a right, not a privilege. It ought only to be curtailed if justice so requires. The common experience of the judiciary and others is that there are a significant number of cases in which the proposed mandatory sentences of imprisonment would quite clearly be unjust.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. DONALDSON,
House of Lords.
February 3.

Accessible justice

From Mr R. H. G. Corner

Sir, Neil Addison (letter, January 27) made an interesting and valid point when he wrote that the Magna Carta states: "To no man will we sell, to no man will we deny justice."

However, there is a very good precedent for making justice self-financing in England and Wales. When the office of Coroner was instituted in September 1194 he had to hold inquests into most sudden and unnatural deaths. He always sat with a jury who had to appraise the lands and chattels of homicides and suicides, of felons and fugitives from justice.

In death by misadventure the animal or object — and in homicides the object — which caused the death was forfeited as a "deadend", to be sold and the proceeds paid over to the King's exchequer to raise money for the impoverished Crown.

It was a profitable business and only ceased in the 1840s when the Government realised that any railway engine causing an accident was liable to be sold.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY CORNER
(HM Coroner for North Buckinghamshire),
15 Market Square,
Winslow, Buckingham.
January 30.

Food of champions

From Mr Roger Macdonald

Sir, If Gillian Bowditch (report, January 29) is going to quote Dr Johnson's opinion on oats — "A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people" — she should surely include the standard response, "Where in the world will you find finer horses or better people?"

Yours faithfully,
ROGER MACDONALD,
6 Cecil Aldin Drive,
Reading, Berkshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Backing for Bloody Sunday inquiry

From Mr Harry Barnes, MP for North East Derbyshire (Labour), and Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Eltham (Conservative)

Sir, Andrew Hunter rightly argues (letter, February 3) that the Provisional IRA continues to exploit Bloody Sunday to justify its violent campaign, for which there can be no moral or democratic mandate. This is why the cross-party peace group, New Dialogue, has over the years organised a presence for peace at Bloody Sunday rallies with the slogan, directed at Sinn Féin/IRA, of "No more Bloody Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays ... etc".

Bloody Sunday remains a key factor in the disaffection of many Catholics from the British State. It is a running sore which underpins the fears of many law-abiding Catholics that they are or could become second-class citizens.

Sinn Féin wrongly claims that the British Government has not moved on this issue. However, the Prime Minister made a statement in 1992, in response to our representations, that those killed on that fateful day "should be regarded as having been found not guilty of having been shot

whilst handling a firearm or bomb". A year later Mr Major said that those killed were "innocent".

The British Government should build on this. An independent inquiry, perhaps with independent British, Irish and other historians, should investigate new information published in Don Mullan's recent book, *Eye-witness Bloody Sunday* (which contains new evidence that marchers came under fire from other troops in the area), to examine the outcome of the Widgery tribunal and to apologise to the relatives of those who were killed.

Andrew Hunter says that "the IRA would rejoice" if there were a new inquiry. We do not agree. Failure to respond to legitimate requests for a new investigation would make the IRA rejoice. We should frustrate their efforts to continue to use the sorrow of the families and friends of those killed in the Bloody Sunday tragedy for their warped purposes.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY BARNES,
PETER BOTTOMLEY
(Joint Presidents, New Dialogue),
House of Commons.
February 3.

How taxpayers subsidise low pay

From Mr Ian McCartney, MP for Macclesfield (Labour)

Sir, David Willets, quoting DSS research (letter, January 31; see also letters, January 23, 25, 29), displays unbelievable complacency when he states: "only 9 per cent of employers agreed that the availability of family credit affected the wages they pay".

Annual Employment Survey, 1995, recorded 1.3 million business units in Great Britain. This means some 117,000 businesses pay low wages because they know the State will top them up. This allows them to undercut competitors who pay good wages. It also costs the taxpayer, including good employers, dear.

Mr Willets adds: "family credit is carefully targeted on particular groups and is far from being the general wage subsidy that the critics fear". That may be true, but the Government is now piloting Earnings Top Up, which effectively extends family credit to childless couples. We are certainly heading in the direction of a general wage subsidy.

The bill for benefits to top up low pay now stands at £3.4 billion. If Earnings Top Up were introduced nationwide, and benefit payments rose by 14 per cent a year (as family credit has, on average, for the last five years), in-work benefits would cost the taxpayer almost £22 billion over the

course of a fifth Tory term. That's the equivalent of 2p on the basic rate of income tax.

Yours sincerely,
IAN MCCARTNEY
(Labour Employment Spokesperson),
House of Commons.
February 3.

From Mr Andrew Phillips

Sir, David Willets suggests that employers do not "have adequate knowledge of family credit" to exploit in-work benefit.

As an ex-Treasury minister and a member of the "market party" he ought to know that firms respond to operating conditions in a market-place. A person on the Clapham omnibus and certainly any student of elementary economics is aware that businessmen do not need consciously to know, indeed cannot know, all pertinent information, and fortunately do not have to. All they need do is see how little they can offer and still attract employees.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW PHILLIPS
(Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate,
North Essex),
Swallow House,
Long Road West, Dedham, Essex.
January 31.

London's transport

From Mr Irving Yass

Sir, The closure of Hammersmith Bridge for repairs (report, February 4) highlights the need for adequate funding for structural maintenance. Most of the Thames crossings in London are old and vulnerable to deterioration and damage.

London's road system is so heavily overloaded that any closures or diversions cause enormous problems. Road space is so valuable that it must be managed in a disciplined way. Priority must go to improving public transport; it does not make sense to drive if other forms of transport are available, and as many people cross Hammersmith Bridge by bus as by car. Parking controls and bus lanes must be rigorously enforced, especially on the roads affected by the bridge closure.

The cost to London in terms of delays and pollution when these river crossings have to be closed far outweighs the maintenance costs. In co-ordination with other London organisations, London First is campaigning to promote better ongoing management of the capital's road systems.

Yours faithfully,
IRVING YASS
(Director of Transport),
London First,
Cannon House, 6 Tophill Street, SW1.
February 4.

Holocaust denial

From Mr D. W. Bogle

Sir, You report that if Labour win the election Tony Blair is considering making it a criminal offence to deny the Holocaust took place (January 30).

It is hoped that it is never illegal in this country to deny the actuality of any event or series of events, for it is simply not a lawful function of government to dictate to the people what is and what is not the truth; and if that means that we have to put up with the ramblings of eccentrics and extremists, then so be it.

Anything is preferable to the emergence of thought-police, and prosecutions for political heterodoxy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVE BOGLE,
1 North Bridge Street,
Hawick, Roxburghshire.
February 2.

Business letters, page 27

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be

Sale at auction of Marconi archive

From Mr J. W. Sutherland

Sir, I learn with surprise and shock that the Marconi company intends to auction off its unique archive (report and photographs, January 30, earlier editions). Marconi was for many decades the unchallenged world leader in electronics and since 1969 has been a part of the General Electric Company and a massive contributor to its profits. This vitally important collection is a national as well as corporate asset and should be preserved as such.

I understand that these wonderful treasures are to be split up into many lots, thereby losing the integrity and uniqueness of the archive, removing it from public access and risking many items being lost to overseas buyers.

What a wonderful way it would be to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Marconi Company in 1997 by giving this collection to the nation, perhaps through the Science Museum (which already has many items of Marconi history). This would preserve the archive in one piece, make it available both to the public and for research, and keep it in this country in perpetuity.

I am sure I speak for many thousands of "Marconi men" in asking the company most earnestly to reconsider its far-reaching action.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SUTHERLAND,
69 Stow Road,
Stow-on-Way, Cambridgeshire.
February 4.

From Dr Thomas C. H. Goings

Sir, The Marconi archive provides an unparalleled record of the origins and development of "wireless" communications, world-wide, and as such would be of first importance to maritime, military and general historians. Part of the tragedy, therefore, of the Christie's auction is that the collection has been so little studied, and that no attempt was made to display it during the Marconi Centenary Year.

In the absence of intervention, dispersal abroad is likely. The Royal Commission on Historic Manuscripts, the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund should consider this case as a matter of urgency. Meanwhile, where were the national museums and professional institutions who should also have been exercising a watching brief?

Two months ago your correspondents lamented the disposal at auction of the Brunel papers (letters, December 7, 11). Dispersal of the Marconi archive would be no less lamentable.

Yours faithfully,
T. C. H. GOINGS,
58 Cambridge Road,
Southend, Essex.
February 3.

All at sea?

From Mrs E. P. Steele

Sir, You report today a "Tory mailshot to shareholders". Yesterday I received a share from Mr Major warning me of Labour's plans to impose a windfall tax on privatised utilities to "punish their success".

The only shares I have are in Euro-tunnel. Should I sell?

Yours faithfully,
E. P. STEELE,
2a Harrison Road,
Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire.
February 4.

Times men made over

From Mr Michael Knight

Sir, I am sure that many of your male readers were as delighted as I was by the display of designer clothes modelled on your Style page today by three of the more courageous members of your staff. Perhaps it should have carried the caption "ram dressed as lamb", but I am confident that my wife will henceforth never dare to repeat her suggestions that my wardrobe needs updating.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KNIGHT,
Oakwood, Ichen Abbas,
Winchester, Hampshire.
January 29.

Just claws

From Mrs Zena Durrant

Sir, I was thrilled by the prospects dangled before me by your headline, "Cats to replace husbands" (January 30).

Married in 1979, I've realised I could have been onto my third cat by now. Would my present status as a monogamist therefore have been re-defined as a "serial monogamist"?

Yours faithfully,
ZENA DURRANT,
Packers Lea, Silver Street,
Misterton, Crewkerne, Somerset.

From Mrs C. Ennis

Sir, The idea of pets replacing husbands is not new. When asked why she never married, the novelist Marie Corelli was said to have replied that she had three pets who took the place of a man — a dog that growled all morning, a parrot that swore all evening and a cat that stayed out all night.

Yours faithfully,
CELIA ENNIS,
12 St James Drive,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

High hopes

From Mr A. J. Wheeler

Sir, Yesterday I decided to buy index-linked savings certificates despite initial doubts.

On my way to the Post Office it cost 50p to park, instead of 40p when in the same car park a week earlier. My doubts went.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. WHEELER,
9 Glenwood Avenue,
Bassett, Southampton, Hampshire.

It's not America, it's the technology, stupid

Last week's dramatic three-legged dash to the Independent Television Commission overnight transformed terrestrial from the unloved to the most desired form of digital television. Many — myself included — had written off the land-based variety of digital, expecting that the satellite version would be available so much sooner that it would scoop up those who wish to pay for extra television channels.

What happened on Friday was that Britain's biggest satellite company, BSkyB, joined with the biggest ITV companies, Granada and Carlton. Tugging the BBC along, they applied to the ITC for a digital terrestrial licence. This would enable them to bring 30 channels of pay-per-view and subscription TV to all of Britain's homes (provided they get set-top boxes), not just the one-quarter with cable or satellite.

Talk about two-way bets. BSkyB, an associate company of News International, which owns *The Times*, was already planning to launch its digital subscription services over satellite next year. It now has its potential competitors as its partners and the whole domestic market within its reach. And the BBC wins either way. If its new allies get their digital licence, the Beeb will have a huge boost for the new specialised subscription channels it is developing as a commercial joint venture. Meanwhile, it is getting its own reserved bundle of digital frequencies to carry digitised versions of BBC1, BBC2 and other free services.

Once again you have to feel sorry for cable television. A group headed by Britain's third biggest cable company has also applied to the ITC for the commercial digital terrestrial licence. But the weekend press was cruelly cold toward Digital Television Network's chances, figuring its fresh programme plans dwarfed by the overpowering opposition. But I can't understand the hand-wringing over "the end of television as we know it" that the digital news is causing. Why if the terrestrial four (soon to be five) channels continue to be financed and programmed as they are now, should dozens or hundreds of new channels be anything but add-ons: new magazines costing pounds compared to a traditional newspaper costing pence?

That channel expansion is some form of "Americanisation" is ludicrous. Digital TV is as American as the dishwasher, the split atom or the black plastic bag. It's the technology, stupid. You can't hold back an advance that creates more of a scarce commodity, offers it in better form and makes room for another new service that people want more of (mobile communications). Would you even want to?

A PUBLIC SERVICE announcement: media studies are not journalism courses. "Tomor-

row's Journalist", a seminar held in London last week by the Association of British Editors, the Guild of Editors and the Media Society, revealed how depressingly widespread the confusion is. If they have to struggle to clarify what the difference is, what hope is there for the thousands of prospective students staring at course catalogues?

One attempted definition: media studies analyse the products, not the practice, of journalism. Another: media studies are a form of sociology or linguistics, not of vocational training. As the British media industry last year generated £17 billion in revenue, some of the 30,000 students now enrolled in media studies ought to find a job related to their degree, if they take "media" in its broadest sense, from advertising to public relations to programming Web sites.

But that doesn't solve the problem — the subject of the seminar — of designing a national curriculum for the editorial training of journalists. Agreed standards there have to be, if only so that journalism courses can be accredited and the inferior weeded out.

As a product of the on-the-job school of journalism training, I am glad I don't have to draw up the list. To me, the search for a common curriculum seems a hunt for a rather dubious Holy Grail. "Journalism" is fragmenting into increasingly disparate activities that do not at all require the same kinds of training. And the search for an agreed measure of performance seems a short step from the "accreditation of journalists": the tool wielded by governments around the world when they want to control the press.

A free press should have no entry rules, nor pretend that journalism is a profession like engineering, law or medicine that lets people in and kicks them out. We want Evelyn Waugh to cover the Abyssinian War; we don't want them building bridges or performing brain surgery.

However, so long as a degree is not mandatory, it is no bad thing for the publishing and broadcasting industries to try to set standards for the many courses purporting to deliver skilled young people to employers. So good luck to the new working party, which will try once again to get agreement on national training standards, taking into account the new electronic world in which a journalist must use a computer or a camera as well as a pencil.

And master a special subject? At last week's seminar, a young journalism student announced that having switched from a medical course, she was shocked to be told that she might have had a better chance in journalism had she become a doctor. There was silence. In today's media, "A Doctor Writes" is no joke. Having something to say may be a better qualification than shorthand.



BRENDA MADDOX

Agony of Auntie Anna

ANNA RAEBURN, the radio agony aunt who last November defected from the national network Talk Radio to the London women's station Liberty, seems to have a few problems of her own.

Raeburn was spotted last week at Talk Radio, where she asked the managing editor Martin Campbell for her old job back. Though Liberty is reported to be paying her £180,000 — twice what she earned at Talk Radio — Raeburn is said to be at her wit's end. Instead of the 8,000 to 9,000 calls she used to attract at Talk during her two-hour show, Raeburn gets only a handful of callers during her daily slot at Liberty. She strings out the gaps between calls by reading out letters from listeners who wrote to her while she was still at Talk Radio.

In the know

LAST WEEK *The Listener* reported the disengagement of Max Hastings, Editor of the London local newspaper, the *Evening Standard*, when his



Anna Raeburn: job switch?

court appearance over the Whitmore Prison fiasco got in the way of a day's shooting. That was of nothing to his anger when he turned to a feature on the runners and riders for the chairmanship of the Vote in the "Games" pages of Monday's edition of his paper.

A paragraph about Viscount Astor, the horse-mad, all-purpose government spokesman, was accompanied by a photograph of an entirely different person: possibly Lord Astor of Hever but certainly not the 4th Viscount. When Mad Max eventually calmed down enough to be in-

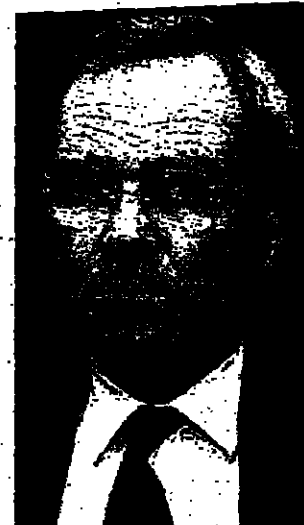
telligible, he bawled: "Do you know how embarrassing this is? I know these people!"

Underwhelmed

THE arrival in London today of Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign Minister and former leader of the ruling Liberal Party, should send journalists scrambling for their flak jackets. Downer, here for talks with Malcolm Rifkind on a (slightly improbable-sounding) Anglo-Aussie cultural initiative, is not a fan of the fourth estate.

On a recent tour Downer, a Fleet Street cricket team saw Downer turn out for an Adelaide side. The visitors behaved impeccably. No mention was made of the unfortunate incident in which Downer disgusted the red-blooded, lager-drinking masses by being photographed eagerly pulling on women's stockings for charity. And the English wicketkeeper was careful not to stump the great man when he had scored just six, allowing him to progress to a respectable 48. Downer's diplomatic response was to remark loudly: "I hate journalists; they're all feral."

Mirror's image
ANIMAL, the green-haired 17-year-old road protester, real name Ellenor Hutson, who



Lord Archer: reporter bait

spent four nights underground near Honiton, Devon, on the A30 road protest, has been offered a column by *The Mirror*. However, the crustier element among the paper's readership are to be disappointed. She has rejected the offer in favour of the "cause".

Munching chips late at night in Overy St Mary after emerging last week, she said: "I've been offered loads of money by the tabloids. *The Mirror* wanted me to write a column but I said 'No' because no one at the camps would trust me any more. They'd all be saying 'are you a journalist or a protester?'"

Lord Archer is being baited by a group of *Evening Standard* reporters. He is looking for a researcher and every member of the paper's Diary column plans to apply. "He torments us as much as we torment him," one hackette says, "so we thought it would be fun."

Canteen bar none

STAFF at the *Express* are excited about a morale-boosting game invented by the management. After the closure of the bar by Lord Hollick, the chief executive, compensation comes; the canteen (and a new sandwich bar) will now be referred to as a "restaurant" and staff can suggest a name. The winner gets two West End theatre tickets.

The Non also-Hollick is a popular choice, as is The Monastery, in tribute to the early doctored existence of the editor, Richard Addis, who has not been spotted on the editorial floor for so long he has been nicknamed Deng Xiaoping.

Another piece of Fleet Street history is up for sale. The 1928 Aston Martin 1.5 litre international two-seater in which Lord Beaverbrook, legendary owner of the *Daily Express*, used to race is expected to fetch at least £40,000 at Christie's next month.

Ads that turn you off

MORE THAN 40 per cent of Americans actively refuse to buy a product if they do not like its advertising, says *Adweek*, the US magazine. The nationwide poll revealed that men and women were equally likely to register their disapproval in such a way, with the 18 to 24-year-old sector likely to be the most militant. No specific adverts were singled out for ridicule.

Though British practitioners might fancy the notion that UK advertising is generally better than its American counterpart, the question of likeability impact on sales is a burning issue here.

Lowe Howard Spink has commissioned its own comprehensive study into this area, the results of which will be out in three months. Tim Lindsay, managing director of the agency, says: "Directly proving the link between likeability and effectiveness is the holy

grail. Everyone says there is a link, but we still need the final piece in the jigsaw to prove it." Renault Megane, Wrigley's Extra and Visa "ker-ching" Delta had better beware...

LORD LEVERHULME'S fabled poster, "Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted, and the trouble is I don't know which half", could soon be solved. A book aimed at proving that advertising is totally accountable and measurable is to be published next month.

Accountable Advertising is written by Dr Simon Broadbent, the respected industry guru. He intends to demonstrate clearly how advertisers and agencies can justify every penny spent

on advertising and make it as accountable as all other company investments. It follows on from a global study conducted by Dr Broadbent in collaboration with Leo Burnett, and a seminar to be held on February 19, which will scrutinise advertising effectiveness and best practice in campaign evaluation.

RUUD GULLIT, the Chelsea player-manager and BBC pundit, has joined the ever-swelling throng of football stars featuring in TV commercials. He has just been signed up by Mars to advertise M&Ms in a pan-European campaign, due to break next month. Sources say that Gullit has been contracted to keep his trademark dreadlocks for the duration of the campaign.

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Coordinate with 2 key work areas. To support Telecommunications sales team with adults and customer management. 14-16K.
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we require simply the best...

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March 97 will see us open our fifth & sixth branches at Harold Hill, Essex & Warrington, Cheshire. We require a team of hardworking dedicated & experienced people to ensure the progression of the company. The company also has additional vacancies Nationwide.

If you think you have what we are looking for
Telephone: 0800 - 269766.
Fax: 0800 - 269766, or please send a current CV, along with references if available to:

Richard Alden,
Regional Sales Manager,
The English Kitchen Company,
Unit 1, Millers Park Ind Est,
Milton Way, Tamworth,
Staffordshire, B77 5AS

THE ENGLISH KITCHEN COMPANY

Brand Manager
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You are ready to try something new. You know you can sell and to what you want to do. You may lack experience - no problem! We can give you direction and training.
We need two talented self starters to join our young team on a rewarding new project. You will be working in central London selling high quality blue chip trade media with a basic salary of 14K + Bonus. You must have a good speaking voice and be articulate.
If interested call Anna on 0171 240 9363.

Management Trainee

1 apply two well educated individuals (22-30) who want to be trained in all management positions within a successful and expanding company, working in the financial sector. You must have a good speaking voice and be articulate. You must have a good speaking voice and be articulate. You must have a good speaking voice and be articulate.
Rosa Giamfelli
0171 240 3316

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CEENET: Specialist arms length company set up by the Corporation of London to increase inward investment and business opportunities for the City of London. Proactive marketing to Emerging Markets and management of leads from London First Centre. Highly commercial approach.
THE POSITION
Inward Investment Manager.
Preparation of company visit programmes.
Marketing inward investment opportunities to companies visiting the City.
Support decision makers in the process of finding and setting up their offices.
QUALITIES REQUIRED
Preference for knowledge of City.
Excellent marketing skills, preferably with experience of dealing with senior decision makers.
Emerging market experience useful.
Methodical, efficient approach to paperwork.
Proactive, enthusiastic, mature. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
Team player.
Please send CV, stating salary to the attention of Heidi Royle, CEENET, 29 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AT.

WACKER GREAT BRITAIN Ltd.
Lee Road, WALTHAM CROSS, HERTS, EN9 1AH, Tel: (01952) 707200 Fax No: (01952) 707201
International Company, world leaders in manufacture of Construction Machinery. Several Branches in Britain.
Challenging opportunity
SALES MANAGER BSc/BA
This is a key position with prospect to become General Manager within 3 years.
-Able to take charge of our nationwide sales/service team?
-Able to optimise sales and widen customer base?
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-Between 35 and 40 with proven track record, ideally in Construction Industry?
We offer market leading products, progressive strategy, attractive remuneration and benefits.
Please write (attn: Managing Director) with complete CV, reference and recent photograph.
NO AGENCIES PLEASE
WACKER CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
Efficiency through Performance

THOMAS INTERNATIONAL
Thomas International is a leader in the field of Behavioural Assessments and Customised Management Training Programmes. We operate in 40 countries and in 24 different languages and have assessed 4 million people in the past 15 years.
We need active, single minded fully trained and trained sales representatives in various areas of the UK. You need to be self motivated, results orientated and have the over powering need to succeed.
Salary package including bonus exceeds \$20,000. Full product and sales training is provided.
For those who live South of Milton Keynes please ring Arthur Williams on 01223 222222. Please ring between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.
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Thursday 6th, Friday 7th and Monday 10th February 1997 and thereafter
Thomas International
Broom House, 17 Wood St, 1 St John's Rd, L1 1JH
Tel: 01695 472766

Sales & Marketing Director
Training & Education Sector
£70,000 OTE + BENEFITS
CENTRAL LONDON
Vocational training and educational standards are set to be amongst the most prominent popular issues of the next ten years in the Western World. Participants in the sector will need to react to new rules, new opportunities, new markets.
The Company
• With over 400 staff and a turnover of £40 million this organisation is a household name.
• The market leader across the whole of the vocational training field, operating nationally and internationally.
• Reshaping and repositioning itself to take maximum advantage presented by the rapidly changing and competitive market for vocational qualifications.
The Position
• Responsible for determining the sales and marketing goals of the organisation and a key role in its commercial development.
• Redirect the sales activity towards building long-term relationships with key clients, ensuring high standards of customer service, developing new market sectors with growth potential, possibly through partnerships and alliances.
• To be actively involved in the public debate on the role of training and qualifications in the national and international economy.
The Person
• Graduate sales and marketing professional with experience in either business-to-business services or education and training.
• Commercial breadth and interpersonal skills to negotiate with senior management of national accounts within this sector. Proven success in establishing high quality customer service standards through large operational teams.
• Numerate and analytical with political sensitivity to establish an authoritative profile in dynamic external markets whilst instilling a corporate team spirit through a period of internal change.
Please send a full CV to: STC Selection, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX, quoting reference 2716
STC SELECTION

Cartier Ltd.
SALESPERSON
An exciting opportunity has arisen for an experienced Salesperson to join our boutique within Harrods Fine Jewellery department.
Immaculate, enthusiastic professional applicants should have a proven track record of sales within the luxury market with preference being given to those with experience of fine quality jewellery and FGA qualifications.
We offer a competitive salary plus commission and a generous benefits package. If you feel you have the qualities to succeed in this challenging role, please apply in writing stating present salary to:
Penny Reed, Personnel Manager, Cartier Limited, 175 - 176 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 0QA.

TWO CHOICES
You can phone around and hear unbelievable success stories and lots of hype which will promise up to 50k in your first year, provide you with excellent training, company cars, basic salaries, etc.
OR
You can phone us and hear the truth. Not everyone can make money in advertising sales. Many people fail by the wayside. Some people are employed on a hope just to keep numbers up, because if you know enough people on the phone then someone will succeed.
I only employ people I believe will be successful and who I'm happy to invest time and money in training. So if you can spend half an hour at my company to find out more, then in return I will be totally honest with you and tell you whether or not this is for you.
If this advertisement makes sense to you then call me, Phillip Armstrong on 0171 915 9677

New readers, new times

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

When I first joined *The Times* exactly 30 years ago, it was undergoing a revolution. Our editor, William Rees-Mogg, may seem an unlikely revolutionary today, but he knew that if it was to survive *The Times* could not appear too stuffy or out of sympathy with the young. Within six months the stiffer sections of British society were outraged when he condemned a sentence of three months' imprisonment on Mick Jagger for being in possession of four amphetamine tablets.

Three years later the Rees-Mogg revolution provoked an unprecedented rebellion by 29 senior members of his staff who signed a letter to him complaining that the authority and seriousness of *The Times* had been diminished. The rebellion was quickly squashed — and one of the main signatories, the late Charles Douglas-Home, went on to become the Editor of *The Times* who introduced Fortlio, the first money-winning game in a British broadsheet.

I recalled the experience of William Rees-Mogg during a weekend conference at which editors and commentators discussed what sort of future there was for quality newspapers — and at which the allegedly declining standards of the British quality press were continually criticised by journalists from *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

The American critics, all well over 50, work for distinguished papers which have secure monopolies, act ruthlessly to crush the first hint of competition, have been in the same family ownership for generations — and which look so dull they would be hard put to sell 50,000 copies a day if they were published from London. What a contrast with the working lives of Peter Stothard of *The Times* and Alan Rusbridger of *The Guardian*, who were the only working editors in the room.

Britain maintains five national quality and several serious regional morning papers in a country the size of California — which maintains only one, the *Los Angeles Times*. So as they wrestle daily with the fight to win new readers in the most fiercely competitive newspaper market in the world, Stothard and

Rusbridger cannot ever be complacent. That is why their newspapers look so different, are so much more tightly edited and immediately appealing than *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. As Rusbridger pointed out, the first threat to quality newspapers is the three-minute culture, the "dumbing down" of the young generation who don't read, aren't interested in politics or foreign affairs and don't like heavyweight articles on "Whither Nato". Either editors meet this post-modern, post-serious, post-literary generation half way or their papers become extinct.

Fiftysomethings can accept all that and still occasionally wonder whether British newspapers are quite as good as they were in the golden days of 30 years ago. Yet, as is shown by a study of *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* — in 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996, the truth is very different from what they might expect.

We forget how small our newspapers were in the 1960s when *The Times* had 20 pages compared with 48-52 in the 1990s or *The Daily Telegraph* had 24 compared with 48. Only ten years ago, *The Times* and the *Telegraph* published 40 pages on Saturdays. Both now publish more than 100.

Across all the papers, as editors seek to appeal to the soundbite generation reared on television, reports are shorter, photographs are bigger, there is more about pop stars, there are fewer words on front pages and significantly less straight Hansard-style reporting of Parliament.

Yet the coverage of home and foreign news has been maintained, albeit that there is less reporting of the public services. *The Times* had 12,000 words of home news a day in 1966 and 13,000 last year and nearly 8,000 of foreign news in 1966 against 7,000 last year, while *The Daily Telegraph* has held at about 5,000 words a day across the three decades.

Against that there are many more pages of lifestyle features and sport has rocketed — up on Mondays in *The Times* and *Telegraph* from 15,000-20,000 to 40,000-50,000 since 1966. The amount of City news is unchanged except that the number of pages devoted to business has doubled.

As Stothard warned, quality newspapers must beware of



Changing times: from the top, *The Times* in 1957, a 1977 edition, a 1987 front page and yesterday's paper

allowing dullness to masquerade as seriousness and must address modern readers in modern ways or lose them. Newspapers cannot reverse a trend away from literacy single-handedly, said Rusbridger — but the young were much more of an opportunity than a threat if editors engaged with

them rather than sniping at them with pea-shooters. When Bill Gates of Microsoft starts storming the US newspaper industry, American journalists and their British sympathisers may begin to understand what both editors were saying. Research by Glen Owen

Classic tale of a fall from grace

Maggie Brown on the rise and fall of Classic FM, and its battle to find more listeners

WHEN Classic FM was launched more than four years ago, offering snatched chunks of Mozart and simple slices of Beethoven, it seemed to have hit the jackpot, even though the purists winced.

With one bold move the founders had identified an easy listening niche that became a "classic" brand overnight, spawning *Classic Magazine* and *Classic CD* compilations with beguiling ease.

Under Michael Bokht, its ebullient programme director who also pursues a public career as Michael Barry, the television cook, it pulled cheekily fast on the BBC, persuading Radio 4's *Gardener's World* team to defect.

Radio 3 was so shell-shocked it accelerated the modernisation of its presentation style — even though Classic FM did not seek to steal its audience. However, Classic FM soon had 4.7 million regular listeners — four in ten aged over 55.

It was also Britain's first national commercial radio station, exploiting a cultural clause in the 1990 Broadcasting Act stating that the precious FM frequency service should not be wasted on "pop music".

Classic FM helped radio to break through the "2 per cent" share-of-advertising barrier to the current 4.7 per cent and assisted the launch of Talk Radio and Virgin Radio.

But Ralph Bernard, a former newspaper journalist who dreamt up the Classic FM format in his bath and raised the starting capital (£6 million) with only 20 minutes to spare, has seen his dream station go wrong. And last month he moved in as its new chief executive, with his Swindon-based radio company, GWR, taking 100 per cent control. "We just didn't go forward," he says.

By 1995 Classic FM had turned in a £2.4 million loss that became £4 million in 1996 on a turnover of about

£19 million. The real financial problems stemmed from attempts to export the format, in what insiders say was a hurried and under-researched manner.

To cover those losses, and the rising costs, advertising airtime was doubled from the 4.5 minutes to which Classic FM had committed itself, bringing it into line with standard pop commercial formats. The adverts certainly became more prominent. Listeners were irritated.



Bernard in control

Furthermore, Classic FM found itself falling dramatically from favour. It was denounced as being part of the culture of soundbites, a symptom of the fear of being serious. It was suggested that, with the Saga holidays and medical insurance adverts, listening to Classic FM put you in an unenviable middle-class category.

What happens now? There is defeatist talk that the Classic audience has peaked. Bernard, 43, believes this is nonsense, that the key lies in converting the two or three million occasional listeners into regular ones.

Under GWR control there has certainly been a serious change in the way Classic's commercial airtime is being sold. Saga remains a valued advertiser and Bernard says the station is already trading profitably. Media analysts even expect it to turn in a £4 million profit this year.

Pitching to pregnancy

Pregnant women and new mothers seeking information about child bearing and rearing now have a new source of information and advice: the local supermarket.

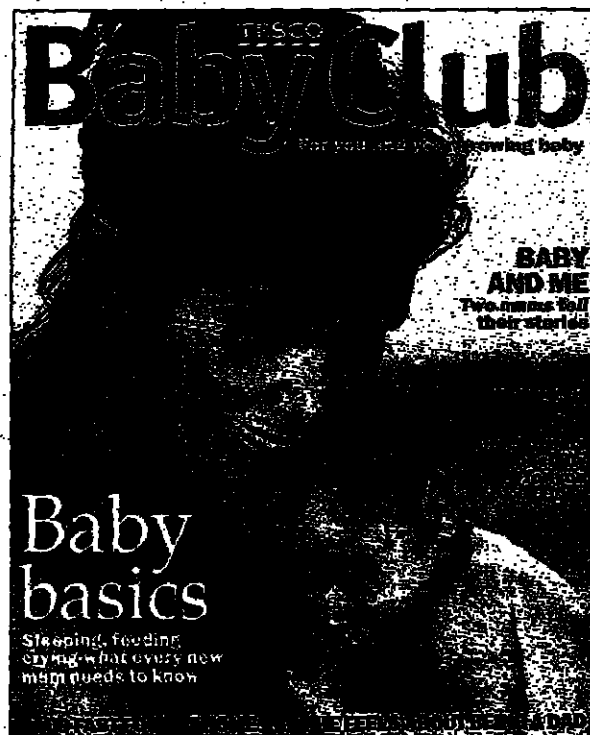
Last month the supermarket Tesco launched its latest marketing device, the *Tesco Baby Club*, a glossy magazine offering babyfood recipes, advice on weaning and general articles on parenting. To give the magazine gravitas the company has hired a panel of experts including Dr Mark Porter, a part-time GP who contributes to the BBC and the *Radio Times*, Professor Peter Hill, a child psychiatrist at St Georges hospital in south London, and Lea Jamieson, head of midwifery and Women's Health Studies at King's College London.

Tesco Baby Club is an example of the growing tactic of using magazines or "information" packs to influence how pregnant women and new mothers shop.

With around 700,000 births in the UK every year, the market is a huge and potentially lucrative one. Paid-for magazines such as *Practical Parenting* and *Mother and Baby* sell around 100,000 copies each a month, while free magazines, funded by advertisers and handed out at ante-natal clinics and GPs surgeries, such as the *Bounty Pregnancy Guide* and the *Bounty Baby*, aim to reach every pregnant woman in the country — 725,000 copies of each are printed every year.

The babyfood manufacturer Heinz also produces a free guide for mothers, with information about weaning babies from milk to solid food. "The logic of all this is simple. First, the baby consumer market is worth an estimated £1 billion a year. And secondly, pregnant women and new mothers are

Supermarket stores are targeting mums-to-be, says Alexandra Frean



Tesco targets mother-to-be market with free magazine

at a turning point in their lives. They are hungry for advice and information and are prepared to explore avenues that will lead them to becoming a "good mother".

Helen Godley, baby marketing manager at Tesco, said that the store is aiming to reach an ambitious 300,000 women with its *Baby Club* magazine. Shoppers receive the magazine when they sign up to a special club operated by the supermarket. Women are sent up to six information packs during and after their pregnancy containing the *Baby Club* magazine and discount coupons. Ms Godley said that the

company launched the club because it wanted to add value to the service it provided to women in order to keep their loyalty. "We are trying to give mums help and information — it's really not exploitative at all. People don't automatically think of Tesco as a place to buy things like breast pads and bottle sterilisers and we are trying to let them know that we do sell them," she said.

But the blurring of distinctions between health education publications and marketing is creating dilemmas for women and medical professionals. Anne Vicars, midwifery manager at the charity Midwives Information and Resource Service,

says that some health professionals are concerned that publications such as *Tesco Baby Club* have an in-built bias because they are not based on independent research. Marketers may simply be using such publications as a subtle form of mental blackmail.

"We are concerned that there are hidden dangers in this and that women will feel under pressure to buy things. After all, Tesco is only doing this because they want women to buy their products," she said.

The sensitive subject of marketing to pregnant women was aired last week at a conference organised by the trade magazine *Marketing Week*. Cathy Baker, a senior strategic planner at the advertising agency Annunziata Puris Lintas, which handles Johnson & Johnson Baby Products, told the conference that although pregnant women were a prime advertising target, they were not "obsessed with being a mother-to-be".

"Pregnant women are active consumers. They are reviewing their own physical health, looking at finances, cars, diet and health, not just checking out nappy brands, and I'm surprised that advertisers such as car manufacturers and financial services providers do not exploit that fact," she said.

Ms Baker added, however, that manufacturers, retailers and magazine publishers needed to tread carefully when targeting pregnant women. Focus groups that she held suggested that many mothers-to-be were insulted by the amount of unsolicited gizmos and product samples manufacturers and retailers tried to push on them. "Do they think we're stupid?" was the resounding response.

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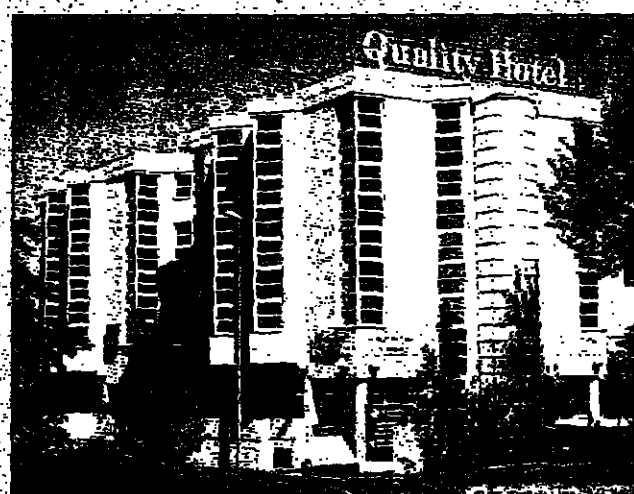
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SHORT BREAKS
TOKEN 3

CHANGING TIMES

PepsiCo earnings plummet

PepsiCo's fourth-quarter earnings fell 85 per cent because of losses in its international beverage business and falling sales at the Pizza Hut and Taco Bell chains. The company earned \$28 million in the three months to December 28, compared with \$181 million the previous year. Revenue rose 4 per cent to \$9.53 billion from \$9.21 billion in 1995. Full-year earnings were \$1.15 billion (\$1.61 billion).

Spanish buy

Royal Sun Alliance, the insurance group, is expanding in Spain with the £20 million acquisition of Hercules Hispania, the insurance arm of Bank Argentina. The deal will make the company Spain's 12th-largest insurer and boost annual premiums by £90 million. It already earns £120 million from general insurance, including the Regal direct motor business.

Games up

Games Workshop, the fantasy war games group, enjoyed a 51 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.8 million (£3.17 million) in the six months to December 1. Earnings rose to 9.7p a share (6.6p). The interim dividend of 2.6p (2p) is payable on April 25.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.21	2.05
Austria Sch	13.88	13.19
Belgium Fr	57.82	53.52
Canada C	2.287	2.127
Cyprus CypL	0.832	0.777
Denmark Kr	10.72	9.95
Finland Mk	8.53	7.86
France Fr	8.40	8.75
Germany DM	2.21	2.05
Greece Dr	437	412
Hong Kong \$	13.20	12.50
Iceland Isk	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Sh	5.27	5.02
Italy Lit	2740	2505
Japan Yen	212.40	198.40
Netherlands Gld	0.648	0.593
New Zealand \$	3.136	2.906
Norway Kr	2.50	2.28
Portugal Esc	11.05	10.23
Spain Ptas	278.50	260.00
Switzerland Fr	7.52	7.12
Sweden Kr	233.00	220.00
Switzerland Fr	12.49	11.88
Switzerland Fr	2.43	2.25
Turkey Lira	183700	181700
USA \$	1.720	1.580

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Clarke urged by CBI to resist Bank pressure for a rate rise

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry has urged Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, not to agree to an interest rate rise at today's monetary policy meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

The CBI's latest regional industrial trends survey — carried out with Business Strategies, the economic consultancy — shows manufacturing orders rising significantly in only four of Britain's 11 regions, with the stronger pound driving back export orders in seven of the regions.

Sudhir Junankar of the CBI said the survey "confirms our view that interest rates can be left on hold for the time being". While interest rate decisions remained "finely

balanced", the CBI believed overall that base rates should be held at their current level.

Bridget Rosewell, a director of Business Strategies and one of the Chancellor's independent economic advisers, said the bank was wrong to press again for further rate rises. She said that Bank officials

"run the risk of being the boy who cried wolf" — a clear reference to a belief among some business leaders of the Bank's falling credibility in repeatedly calling for rises that the Chancellor deems unnecessary.

She said: "I don't see any economic justification for fur-

ther rate rises, which would just put exchange rates under further pressure."

The CBI/BSL trends survey showed total orders in the four months to January fell in three regions — the North, the East Midlands and Scotland — and rose only marginally in a further four, with growth com-

ing only in the South West, Wales, the West Midlands and Northern Ireland.

The strength of the pound was indicated in a fall in export orders in six regions, with manufacturers in nine regions reporting that price competition is becoming more of a constraint on exports — largely, CBI analysts suggested, because of the appreciation of sterling, which is impacting on the export optimism of companies.

However, overall optimism is still increasing in every region except Yorkshire. Manufacturers in every area except the North expect new orders to rise over the coming months, although they expect them to rise at a slower rate than of late. However, recent CBI surveys have shown manufacturers' expectations repeatedly to be disappointed.

Housebuilding at 2-year high

MORE private houses are being built now than at any time during the past two years, according to quarterly figures from the Department of the Environment (Christine Buckley writes).

In the three months to December last year there was a 33 per cent jump in the number of private house starts compared with the

same quarter of the previous year. Compared with the previous three months, the climb was 7 per cent.

Overall homebuilding by the private and public sector meant the start of 41,100 buildings in the last three months of 1996, while in the whole of the year work started on 174,200 homes. The yearly total represented

a rise of 4 per cent on the previous year.

James Clappison, Environment Minister, said: "Prospects of improved growth in real incomes and mortgage rates close to their lowest level for 30 years should help to improve consumer confidence and support a continuing broad recovery in the housing market."

C&W in talks to escape Vebacom link in Germany

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE and Wireless confirmed yesterday that it is in talks to extract itself from Vebacom, its telecommunications partnership in Germany. The announcement came amid speculation that C&W will use another route, such as joining Global One, the international alliance that includes Deutsche Telekom, to gain access to the German market.

C&W said it would reveal the conclusion of its talks with Vebacom "in due course." Company insiders said that Dick Brown, chief executive, has taken the view that building a network in Germany to compete with Deutsche Telekom, the dominant operator, is too costly and too risky.

Vebacom is 22.5 per cent owned by C&W. The other partners are Veba and RWE, the German industrial groups.

C&W, however, said it has no intention of scrapping its other alliance with Veba, called C&W Europe, which

covers the Western European countries outside Germany. Veba's intentions are not known. Analysts said that it has considerable leverage over C&W because it owns 10.5 per cent of its shares. Selling the stake, worth more than £1 billion at current market prices, is one option.

Joining Global One, whose other partners are France Telecom and Sprint, America's third largest long-distance operator, would give C&W indirect access to Germany without having to build a network. C&W, for its part, could provide Global One access to the UK and Asia, where it is the controlling shareholder of Hongkong Telecom.

British Telecom and Viag, its German telecoms partner, been awarded the fourth mobile phone licence in Germany. BT said the licence takes it one step further in becoming a full-service operator, competing with Deutsche Telekom.



Hot stuff: John Crathorne, right, chief executive, and Jim Bates, finance director, unveiled a 57 per cent leap in first-half pre-tax profits at Stoves, the Merseyside cookers group.

Maid issues statement to calm market

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MAID, the online information company, yesterday moved to reverse a steady decline in its share price by issuing a statement saying that trading remains in line with expectations.

The company said that it sees no reason for the fall in the share price and that income is now being received from the link-up with CompuServe. It added that cash balances at the end of 1996 were healthy and it is in negotiations to secure a number of other strategic alliances. Maid also said it is happy with its relationship with ABN Amro Hoare Govett, its broker.

The statement was well received in the market and the company's shares rose 22½p to 172½p.

A report published yesterday by Broadview Associates, a media and technology industry consulting firm, pointed to the pressures the internet was placing on media companies and predicted that merger and acquisition activity in the sector would continue to accelerate this year.

Jobs fear as receivers move in at Beck Food

MORE than 500 jobs at Beck Food are under threat after the fresh meat and smoked salmon company was put into receivership. Beck recently lost a £25 million a year contract to supply beef and lamb to Tesco, causing the loss of 160 jobs at its abattoir and packing plant. The impact on the group's cashflow was such that its managers were forced this week to ask its bankers to appoint receivers, and Richard Rees and Iain Bennet of Price Waterhouse have been called in.

The group's two Scottish operations, employing 338 people, are Perth Fresh Meats, an abattoir and retail packing plant, and Beck Foods Smoked Salmon, both in Inverlorn, Perth. Beck Foods, its meat processing, storage and packing business in Boston, Lincolnshire, has 167 employees.

CableMedia loss grows

BELL CABLEMEDIA, the cable company that is to merge with Nymex and Mercury Communications to form Cable and Wireless Communications, reported a £95.7 million net loss in the year to December 31 (1997-4 million loss in 1995). The results include the acquisition of Videotron, a rival company. Total revenue rose 78 per cent to £76.9 million as the combined network reached 49 per cent completion. Disconnection rates were almost 28 per cent for the year.

TI finance chief named

MARTIN ANGLE, former head of international corporate finance at Kleinwort Benson, is to become the finance director of TI Group, the acquisitive engineering company, replacing Brian Walsh, who is to step down from the board for personal reasons. He will remain as a consultant. During his time at Kleinwort Benson, Mr Angle worked with TI in the 1980s, helping to secure the key acquisitions of John Crane and Bundy, which now form two of TI's three main arms.

Bank to use gilt repos

THE Bank of England will begin using gilt repos in its daily money market operations from March 3. This move is part of a package of changes intended to modernise the Bank's operations and help to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of London's money markets. Other changes coming into force include extending to banks, building societies and securities firms the right to act as counterparties to the Bank in its daily money market operations.

Astec deal for Vodafone

VODAFONE yesterday became the reluctant owner of Astec Communications, a service provider, by converting its Astec loans into equity. The value of the loans was not disclosed. Vodafone said Astec was making losses and in danger of defaulting on the loans. Astec has 97,000 subscribers, two-thirds of whom are connected to the Vodafone network, and 21 retail outlets. The Astec acquisition came shortly after Vodafone bought Peoples Phone for £92.5 million.

Arjo shares slip further

SHARES of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper company, lost further ground after the company revealed that total turnover fell nearly 5 per cent to £875 million in the final quarter, from £969.9 million in the last three months of 1995. Turnover for the full year was flat at £3.57 billion. Arjo has struggled against tough European and US paper markets throughout the year. The shares fell 3p yesterday to 16½p, having traded at a high of 21½p last year.

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□ Gas's woes may be set for power replay □ Panel hands out takeover rebuke □ Tall tales at the 19th hole

Cold front for competition

□ DICK GIORDANO, chairman of British Gas, must be wondering whether he once ran over Clare Spottiswoode's cat. Certainly she will not rest until Transco, the shipping and storage arm, is riven into a million pieces. *Delenda est Carthago* indeed.

But Ms Spottiswoode had better be certain the hive-off she envisages of Transco's non-essential services, including responsibility for safety, does not lead to any deterioration. British Gas has had difficulty in the past in pinning the blame for its woes on government and regulator, even if the last two should take some responsibility, because we are all now in the habit of blaming the company for anything, and such habits die hard. But die they will, if further interference leads to disaster.

For now, the company has more pressing problems. In five days' time a fully competitive market in gas starts in the counties of Dorset and Avon, spreading next month to Kent and Sussex. British Gas has complained bitterly about the arrival of competition in winter, when demand is greatest.

Experience suggests that the amount of switching to new suppliers will be minimal, and the system able to cope. Suppose it does not, and customers receive garbled bills (again) or,

even worse, are cut off. Guess who gets the blame again?

By a pleasant coincidence, another energy regulator is at the Trade Select Committee this morning to answer questions about competition in his industry. Mr Giordano might consider that, if he has problems now, the power distributors have them all ahead of them.

Stephen Littlechild has already accepted that the April 1, 1998 deadline for all 20 million households in England and Wales to shop around for their electricity cannot be met. The debate now is over how competition can be phased in.

It cannot be done geographically, as with gas, because this hits those regional companies who go first. They lose sales in their own backyards but cannot attack their rivals in theirs. The betting is that it will come in for small businesses only at first, and we ordinary folk have to wait a few months more.

But the power industry has to decide how it will cope. The 12 regional companies are too small to handle the risk of buying power and then finding them-

selves undercut on price and with no takers for it — British Gas's take-or-pay problems in the North Sea writ smaller. They must strike alliances of some sort with the big generators.

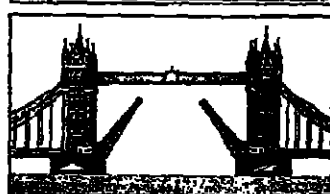
These would provide power at a fixed price. Logical, but such vertical integration needs the blessing of Professor Littlechild. He has promised a statement on generation-distribution alliances shortly. Oddly enough, a Labour government might look more favourably on such deals, given how much of the industry is in foreign hands. But Professor Littlechild is a long way from being Labour's favourite regulator.

The eleventh commandment

□ THE authorities, including the august Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, have for a while been looking for a scapegoat from among the public relations industry, which many bigwigs in the Square Mile believe is getting above itself.

Well, they have one now. Citigate has been caught red-

PENNINGTON



handed leaking information to newspapers during the course of a bitter takeover bid. They say Justin Redgrave, the account-holder, is to be publicly thrashed; Caroline Alice-Band, who pours out the drinks so delightfully at City lunches, must henceforth hide her charms under thickest sackcloth and ashes.

One might wonder what on earth the Panel thinks companies like Citigate do for a living. Triplex Lloyd, which employs Citigate in its battle to take over William Cook, told its public relations advisers to go off and tell selected newspapers — not including this one — about certain facts that had been prised out of Cook. This was designed, one assumes, to undermine a

management buyout that the latter's chairman and chief executive, Andrew Cook, was trying to arrange.

Triplex must shortly decide whether to outbid the buyout with a higher offer. It probably will not, but any decision by the venture capital outfits backing Mr Cook to pull away in horror at the revelations, relating to discrepancies between various Cook trading statements, will help that decision. Hence the leak through Citigate.

Except that in the real world Mr Cook's backers are too grown up. In the real world the Panel knows perfectly well what firms like Citigate are up to, and is merely concerned to keep a watch on the most outrageous examples, defined as those where the practitioners get caught. The bars of the City will still be packed, on Thursday evenings, with public relations advisers and Sunday paper journalists plying their respective trades.

No one gets hurt. But if you want a villain, go to Triplex itself, whose instructions Citigate was carrying out, on pain of their client finding another willing

firm to do the job. The Panel has indeed gone gunning for Triplex. It, along with Citigate, has been "criticised". Ouch.

Accentuating the positive

□ YOU are a shareholder in ClubPartners International. You read on the Stock Exchange company information service on February 13 that your company has sold Tytherington, one of its two golf clubs, to PGA European Tour Courses, the listed golfing vehicle of Mark McCormack and Richard Thompson. You are told that PGA is paying £1.52 million in cash and repayment of loans, that the assets of the business were £2.01 million and it made an operating profit of £114,147 in 1995.

Then, two weeks later, you receive a letter from Martin Knight, chairman of ClubPartners. He explains that, as PGA also assumed £2.6 million of external debt in the deal, the actual financial benefit to ClubPartners was £4.2 million. Furthermore, the net assets of

Tytherington were actually £264,202, and it made a pre-tax loss of £203,552 in 1995.

PGA does not dispute these figures, but both cannot, logically, be true. Shareholders of both companies might therefore ask the following questions:

□ Why can they not agree on the actual sale price of the business? Or, indeed, the profit figure or the asset figure, and why is there such a discrepancy in the asset values?

□ Why are two companies allowed to put out two wildly different versions of events, each favouring the company that issued it?

□ As ClubPartners was the worst-performing share on the market last year, is the only way up from here? And which way is PGA going, do you think?

Sleeping easy

□ A RED-LETTER day for insomniacs. Britain's Securities and Investments Board, a world leader in long, tedious reports, is joining the Internet to warn investors about fly-by-night schemes being touted there. However, the Financial Services Act was intended to stop reasonable people being made fools of, not to save fools from their own folly. Consigning your cash to cyberspace would seem a prime example of the latter.

Gulf lifts bid for Clyde Petroleum

By CARL MORTIMER

THE future of Clyde Petroleum is in the hands of five institutions after Gulf Canada, the oil company, raised its bid by 15p a share to 120p, valuing the oil explorer at £498 million.

Clyde was quick to reject the revised offer and described Gulf Canada as "a highly leveraged vehicle that cannot afford to pay full value for Clyde". Roy Franklin, Clyde's managing director, said: "There is certainly more value in retaining a loyal shareholder than taking cash at 120p per share."

Gulf yesterday spent £18 million buying 15.1 million shares in the market. In addition to the 7.5 million it already owned, the Canadian bidder now controls 5.5 per cent of Clyde's stock. However, the lion's share of the company is in the hands of five institutions: Schroders, Norwich Union, Capital Group, Wittington Investments and PDEM, the fund manager owned by Union Bank of Switzerland.

Together the five institutions account for some 56 per

cent of Clyde's shares and are believed to have acquired the majority of their holdings at prices between 40p and 50p per share.

J.P. Bryan, Gulf president, said the 120p bid was equivalent to the base value of 120p established by ERC, the consultants recently hired by Clyde to estimate its net worth. However, he said that ERC's value was overstated by about 30p because of inflated values for exploration and Clyde's Australian and Indonesian assets. "It takes no account for corporate overhead, about 6p per share," he added. "We think the assets are reasonable; they are just putting too much value on them."

Mr Bryan said that Gulf had no plans for large-scale redundancies at Clyde. "Absolutely not. We hope to keep all those people who want to stay. Roy Franklin is somebody we would like to be able to talk to," he said. "We want to grow this thing in a very aggressive manner," he added.

Tempos, page 26

Candidates emerge for ScotAm

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

PRUDENTIAL, Aegon and Australian Mutual Provident (AMP) are the most likely candidates to enter a bidding war with Abbey National for control of Scottish Amicable, according to Standard & Poor's, the ratings agency.

Martin Lees, an associate director, yesterday questioned ScotAm's need to demutualise and said that Aegon, the Dutch insurer, was a strong potential parent.

Sandy Stewart, chairman of Scottish Amicable, has written an open letter to policyholders stating: "We will notify you if a definitive and demonstrably better offer is made before any vote on our proposals is taken."

Meanwhile, Lazard Brothers, Abbey's adviser, made three attempts to contact SBC Warburg's corporate finance department yesterday. Warburg has yet to respond to Abbey's request for a meeting.

Tempos, page 26

Newsletter fuels Shield share rise

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES of Shield Diagnostics rose sharply after the healthcare company sent an upbeat newsletter on its promising heart disease test to a select group of analysts.

Shield later said that its AFT News update contained no new information. But the incident looks likely to spark a row with the Stock Exchange, which will be concerned that Shield made no statement to the general body of shareholders.

The shares, which fell to 110p in November, ended 47 per cent up at 249p. The excitement centred on its test for Activated Factor XII, a blood clotting agent that scientists believe to be a superior predictor of heart disease risk than cholesterol tests. The market reacted to the comment that preliminary results from a Medical Research Council study "are clearly supportive of the potential value of AFT in cardiovascular disease risk prediction".

Tempos, page 26

Aston Villa to unveil plans for spring float

ASTON VILLA, the leading football club in the Midlands, will tomorrow announce that it is to float this spring, with an expected valuation of around £120 million (Jason Nisbet writes).

The flotation will price the 47 per cent stake bought by Doug Ellis, Villa's chairman, for £425,000 in 1982, at £56 million.

Villa's widely traded, but unlisted, shares were changing hands at £1,400 each yesterday, a price that values the club at £138 million. Albert

E Sharp, the Premiership club's stockbroker, believes the football market has been inflated by talk of revenues from pay-per-view TV and persuaded the Villa board to price the shares at below the current market capitalisation.

Stan Lock, the football shares expert at Brewin Dolphin, the broker, says a correct valuation could be in excess of £160 million. The float will raise money for the redevelopment of the Villa Park stadium in Birmingham and surrounding land.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cold shoulder for Iceland

STORE managers at Iceland have been besieged by customers inquiring about the frozen food chain's "debut record".

Since radio stations started playing *Mum's Gone to Iceland*, the high street chain has been mistakenly linked with pop band Bannet's latest single. The title of the record is taken from Iceland's catchy slogan which was phased out by the store last year.

The band has been approached by Iceland to cut a promotional video in one of its stores, but the band has cried shy in case it's linked too closely with the frozen food chain.

Plans are under way, however, for the band to play at the launch of a new computer game by Nintendo, another household name mentioned on the record.

'No's' for poster

BACARDI-MARTINI has received rather more attention than it had bargained for. The independent drinks company, which yesterday launched its lemon-scented poster campaign in Australia, appears to have got right up some people's noses. The posters to promote Bacardi Limon, the new rum-based drink, release 20-second bursts of the drink's aroma whenever anyone comes within three metres. Amid claims that they would encourage underage drinking and could have a detrimental effect on problem drinkers, the posters were promptly banned in the State of Victoria.



Hall: permission given to drill at stadium site

Reserves search

CRITICS of Sir John Hall's scheme to build a 55,000-seat stadium on Newcastle's Town Moor are wondering if the Newcastle United chairman — a former mining engineer — might have more than a passing interest in the huge coal reserves believed to be under the site. Permission has been given to drill bore holes to test underground conditions in the Castle Leazes and Leazes Park areas, before submitting planning applications for the stadium. A United spokesman said: "We're not interested in mining coal. We simply need to know what's there so we can assess whether we will need to organise the selective removal of coal in order to stabilise the site."

GERRY ROBINSON has nailed his political colours to Tony Blair's mast. The Irish-born chairman of Granada says he will vote Labour. "You want to feel that something is going somewhere, that there is a life about it," says Robinson.

Fast food

NEW Labour brought a new speedy style of dining to the City when Tony Blair spoke at Mansion House on Monday. The Corporation of London, who organised the event with Guinness Mahon, said it was the fastest lunch they had ever served. Blair insisted he spoke before the noon so he could make the 1 o'clock news. So two courses were served and eaten in just 31 minutes.

MORAG PRESTON



Nicola Horlick was generally acknowledged to be a star in the Morgan Grenfell firmament until she left, forfeiting her bonus, according to the firm

Rocketing bonuses spark down-to-earth concerns

Robert Miller looks at whether lavish rewards entice City stars to become supernovas and hurt their firms

To the average wage slave, and that means most of the working population, the idea of someone being paid a bonus on top of their salary of £1 million a year seems staggering. Nevertheless, City houses this week began the task of calculating annual bonuses which are generally paid later this month or early in March. In most successful firms the bonuses are shared among all the staff. Even so the lion's share is divided up among a relatively small handful of "stars" and other senior executives.

But the various authorities charged with keeping the Square Mile in check are becoming increasingly concerned about the dangers of creating so-called "stars". In the past these tended to be successful securities or derivatives traders, many of whom were paid on a "half-commission" basis. So there was no limit on what they could earn. Nowadays, however, there has been a shift away from what the market traders are paid to towards a new breed of top earners — fund managers. The reason is that global investment and banking houses see annual fee income from successfully managing pension and insurance funds as a far safer bet than volatile profits from market trading.

Morgan Grenfell, for example, will be calculating its bonus payments this month to dish out early in March. Nicola Horlick who left the company amid a blaze of publicity last month, and in doing so forfeited her bonus according to the firm, was generally acknowledged to be a fund management star within the Morgan Grenfell firmament.

After the disastrous events surrounding the Peter Young unit trust affair at Morgan Grenfell last year, however, the firm has signalled its move towards a more collegiate approach to fund management as it practised to such good effect at Mercury Asset Management (MAM). Even at MAM the rewards for Carol Galley, vice-chairman, and Hugh Stevenson, chairman, are generous, but then the results of their

collective efforts have also been spectacular. And, more importantly, there is a large element of deferral in their bonus payouts so that even after a particularly stunning period they would have to wait years before seeing the full fruits of their labours.

The £830 million collapse of Barings and the huge bonuses that were to be paid on the back of Nick Leeson's supposedly spectacular trading skills also put the spotlight firmly on City remuneration packages. Even after the crash, ING, the Dutch banking and insurance group that rescued the failed merchant bank, honoured some of the previously promised bonuses even though they were based on bogus profits. One former Barings executive who did not collect her £500,000 bonus was Mary Walz, who unsuccessfully took her case to an industrial tribunal.

The first sign of regulatory concern over £1 million-plus bonuses was raised by the Bank of England. As far back as the summer of 1995, the Bank, with the direct backing of Eddie George, the Governor, commissioned Margaret Bray, an economist at the London School of Economics, to study the impact that different kinds

of bonus structures have on traders' behaviour and the implications for the risk taken by the employer. Dr Bray's report is expected to be completed later this year.

Another senior watchdog to express concerns about the effect of buying in whiz-kids and star traders and, more importantly, having proper management controls in place to police them, is Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB). In a speech late last year he said: "This cannot be done overnight. Nor does it come cheap. You may be able to hire rocket scientists and new traders, but where do you find the management able to supervise their business? Experience and countless case studies show that succeeding in any new business area, however obvious or enticing it may appear, can be fraught with difficulty."

He added: "The more rapid the move into less familiar territory, the more likely it is that control of the firm's culture and maintenance of high standards will be lost in the inevitable quest for performance." Even more tellingly, Sir Andrew went on to address directly the dangers of creating a "star culture". He said: "In

today's competitive markets the rewards for successful individuals are very colossal. We all know that the best staff can make millions of pounds for their employer, that some may be difficult to manage and not look kindly on any action by a line manager which could suggest a lack of trust in their abilities, let alone their integrity."

Sir Andrew, whose concern has been not to interfere in market forces but rather pull up short any firms tempted to throw caution to the winds in the pursuit of ever greater profitability, said: "Issues arise about the balance between paying stars competitively, in order to retain the best, on the one hand, and on the other, the risk of incentivising such people to behaviour which is harmful and can lead to serious damage long term, to the firms as a whole. This is, again, not a new issue, but recent events have certainly concentrated minds on it once more."

Until fund managers suddenly became the latest "stars", brokers and futures dealers, who are policed by the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), were generally the most lavishly rewarded. Nick Durlacher, head of the SFA, has also expressed concerns

over a star culture, without the proper management checks and balances in place. He feels, as Sir Andrew does, that high bonuses might influence a trader to take improper risks.

Phillip Thorpe, head of Imro, the fund managers watchdog, said: "Businesses will always be seeking to recruit and retain the best people if those people can enhance the businesses' performance. We see nothing unusual or wrong in this."

Mr Thorpe added, however: "We are concerned when management's attention seems to be wholly focused on performance. Management must have the ability to look not at the short-term performance of their customers' assets — they must have the management acumen and strong systems control to ensure that performance is not achieved at the expense of safety."

Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary, said yesterday: "We don't want to see government intervention in the City, which makes a significant contribution to the economic well-being of the country. But equally, we would like bonuses and incentives to be as applicable at the bottom end of a firm's employees as at the top. There also has to be a balance between bonuses and a sense of responsibility from the management to ensure that undue risks are not taken in chasing profitability. This would help to ensure the reputation of the City as a whole and give confidence to investors in general that their money is being responsibly managed."

Ultimately, however, it may be the clients who exercise the most effective constraint on spiralling salaries and bonuses, particularly on star fund managers. More and more pension and insurance funds are switching from active stock picking to indexation where computer programmes choose the portfolios. In this scenario clients might turn round and ask why they should be paying such enormous fees to anyone other than perhaps the computer programmer. At that point fees might become even more negotiable and a sense of proportion begin to prevail over £1 million-plus bonuses.



Galley: rewarded



Young: disastrous



Walz: no bonus

BUSINESS LETTERS

Removal of surplus from pension funds is justifiable

From Mr Bernard A. Breese
Sir, There is a great deal of criticism of employers who are contemplating the extraction from pension funds of surpluses that are not required to honour pension obligations.

In many cases this criticism is unfounded and ignores past circumstances that have contributed in large measure to the surpluses. In the mid-1980s many, possibly most, pension funds were assessed by actuaries to be underfunded. This state of affairs arose as a consequence of high inflation that was not balanced by the high yields then available from investments.

I was at that time an employer, being a member of

a large unincorporated partnership. In order to ensure that the pension promises made to employees could be honoured in the future, substantial contributions to the pension fund were made by the partners at considerable personal cost.

Subsequent actuarial valuations have shown that the additional contributions made by the partnership were excessive and that, despite some enhancement of the members' benefits, the pension fund is overfunded. I believe that tax legislation penalises overfunding and restricts enhancement of benefits so that surpluses are subjected to a tax penalty.

In all the circumstances, although I am now retired and could not participate in the proceeds of a release of surplus funds, it seems to me that any former partners and any other employer should be entitled to recover money paid out in good faith which is now seen to have been paid unnecessarily.

The important consideration is that a pension fund has the resources to meet its pension commitments. Most employees overlook the fact that their own contributions to the cost of their pensions are exceeded by those of their employer. There would be no justification for an employer removing money from a scheme to which he had not contributed.

I believe that there should be a total ban on pension fund trustees making loans to, buying shares in, or providing any form of financial support to the employer without the approval of the court.
Yours faithfully,
BERNARD A. BREESE,
Pine Crest,
Woodcock Hill,
Felbridge,
East Grinstead,
West Sussex.

Californian dreamers fall for the five-star treatment in Nigeria

From Mr Gilbert T. Rickard
Sir, After working in West Africa for 20 years I returned to England to retire in 1967. Since then I have received several (delightful) letters inviting me to participate in schemes to enrich myself.

These have generally taken the form that a very large government-financed undertaking has, for unstated reasons, never come to fruition. So that large funds are now lying dormant for future private investment.

The last (and most endearing) letter invited me to book a first-class flight to Lagos where I would be met by a

very senior civil servant and thereafter accommodated in a five-star hotel. I should be prepared to meet government ministers for discussions and be in possession of a minimum amount of £5,000 or the equivalent in dollars.

Your report that hundreds of hard-headed Californian businessmen have parted with millions of dollars in response to this kind of approach astounds me. (Returns to senders in Nigeria.) January 10.

Yours faithfully,
GILBERT T. RICKARD,
55 Ravensbourne Road,
Bromley,
Kent.

Frankfurt has faith in the guiding stars

From Major John Fitzgerald

Sir, Pennington seems to hold little brief for reliance on astrology in business ("Star-crossed", January 29). Across the Channel they apparently think otherwise. I found, and translated, the following from the brochure of the MS Europa, the luxury German cruise liner: "From Princess Elina Kuragina, who is employed as finance astrologer by the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, passengers will learn much about the importance of astrology for business success".
Yours faithfully,
JOHN FITZGERALD,
68 Heworth Village,
York.



ANTHONY HARRIS

When mistakes can be most instructive

Two suggestive documents have landed on my desk and I want to tempt you to read them, too. What they have in common, apart from insight, is that they are concerned with error. Silly policies may mask serious intentions; bad forecasts are bad for a reason. We can therefore learn from all of them.

Let's start, though, with a silly event of the week — Jacques Santer's rant about EMU at Davos, which seems to have had them titling in the aisles. Why should the President of the European Commission try to claim that EMU is an accomplished fact, when it plainly isn't? Why offend the French with an attack on any idea of political control of European monetary policy? Why talk of the Euro as a reserve currency, which could not happen in less than a couple of decades, and might be bad news if it did? (Reserve currencies are held off the market, and thus generally overvalued.)

Because he was bluffing, that's why. EMU is still a purely political game at this stage, so don't let it derail the whole project; hence the empty claims, and the resentful tone of officials faced with rational questions. And he bluffed deliberately, for the Commission does know the problems. This is given away in the current National Institute review, where Barry Eichengreen confronts the question our Governor keeps raising. How will a single monetary policy and tightly constrained fiscal policies deal with regional problems?

Eichengreen shows that the stability pact fudged in Dublin, although too flexible for German tastes, could turn out to be an instability pact, by forcing members to squeeze their economies whenever revenue is weak. (The President of Toyota might read this with profit.) George Soros argued in Davos for scrapping the pact, and pressing on to full political union. Eichengreen has a more modest proposal: a pact that might work. And he reveals that the Commission itself is already deep into studies of possible stabilisers. This not-in-front-of-the-children approach is

distasteful: better than heads in the sand, but not as good as honesty.

Is this bull-headed approach to fiscal policy the whole reason why the continental economies are facing renewed sclerosis? Not according to Brian Reading. He has been analysing bad forecasts, and come up with a possible formula for estimating structural bars to growth — a world first. I fancy. He starts from the nature of statistical economic models. These basically project the past — "The future will be very like the past, if it isn't different". They are adaptive — that is, they try to learn from past mistakes; but since they deal in near-constants, they are always behind the game.

How much? Reading makes a brilliantly simple proposal. Look for persistent errors. Random errors simply prove that the process is imperfect; but persistent errors show that the model is missing a structural change. Right, then: if you look at OECD forecasts, or at consensus market forecasts, you will find both kinds. The persistent error of recent years has applied to US and UK forecasts — too high for inflation, too low for real growth, year after year. This, he argues, shows continuing supply side improvements — just what a model will miss. But errors for Europe and Japan are random; no supply-side improvement, and possibly a deterioration.

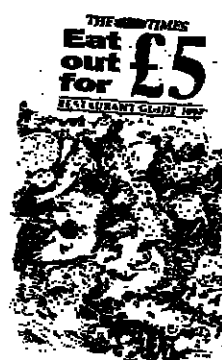
Proof? No. Reading modestly pleads for others to test this theorem through some more ambitious number-crunching than he can manage. Even if you do not have the research staff to take him up on this, his paper deserves study: it might help you get your investment decisions right. And Eichengreen will help you to think about EMU in the real world, rather than cloud-cuckoo land.

"Saving Europe's Automatic Stabilisers. NIESR, 2 Dean Trench Street, London, SW1P 3HE.
"Monthly International Review 59, Lombard St Research, 25 Dowgate Hill, London, EC4R 2GN.

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CHANGING TIMES

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the king
concrete
defend
his cast

More Bizarre

SEAT BRITISH HOMES

The first section of the page contains a large, bold headline "the king" followed by "concrete", "defend", and "his cast". Below this is a sub-headline "More Bizarre". The main body of the page is a large, vertical, black and white photograph of a person's face, which is partially obscured by the text and other elements. To the left of the photograph, there is a column of text that is mostly illegible due to the high contrast and poor quality of the scan. To the right of the photograph, there is a small, rectangular inset image showing a person's face. Below the main photograph, there is a section titled "SEAT BRITISH HOMES" in bold, capital letters. This section contains a list of names and addresses, which are also mostly illegible. At the bottom of the page, there is a large, bold headline "THE GENER FROM AME" in capital letters. Below this headline, there is a smaller line of text that reads "Reduced since the launch of the Barbican Box Office 017: 533".



■ DESIGN

The architect of the National Theatre, Sir Denys Lasdun, defends the Modernist legacy



■ RISING STAR

Seville beckons: Sara Fulgoni prepares to sing Carmen with Welsh National Opera

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

Male bonding and boxing are poorly tackled in *Everybody Knows All Birds Have Wings*



■ THEATRE 2

... but the history of a housing estate provides more fertile ground in *Kitchensink*

The king of concrete defends his castle

Sir Denys Lasdun, architect of the oft-derided National Theatre, talks to Marcus Binney about his work

They call him concrete's firmest friend. Now 82, Sir Denys Lasdun has been as much a victim of the cycles of taste as Sir Christopher Wren. His buildings, acclaimed when they opened, have been reviled and even abandoned. In the past 12 months he has battled to defend his beloved National Theatre from alterations, watched his Peter Robinson store in the Strand demolished, and is still fighting for his pioneering "cluster" blocks of flats in Bethnal Green, east London.

Tomorrow we are offered the chance to judge Lasdun's work, as the Royal Academy opens a grand retrospective. It is an appropriate venue, as the strongest feature of his work is its sculptural quality. He loves moulding space, playing with interlocking and overlapping forms, setting one right-angle against another.

"My interest is in an architecture which does not rely on facades," he says. "Castles don't have facades. Nor do fortifications, nor zig-zags." Instead, much of his work has developed as a system of stratification — he compares it to geological layers — stepped towards the top in open terraces, or

back towards the bottom to create cave-like overhangs. You could almost see it as an endless play on Frank Lloyd Wright's house, *Falling Water*, with its tiers of balconies stacked over a waterfall.

Today, Lasdun stands out as a living connection to the early "greats" of modern architecture in Britain, having worked with Lubetkin, Wells Coates, Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew. But he says, "I began to be disillusioned with formulaic Modernism. It was getting repetitive. Big housing blocks in parallel slabs were anti-life. I began to search for a richer mix."

6 An architect modifies space as a sculptor works in clay

At architecture school he had read Geoffrey Scott's *Architecture of Humanism*. "That taught me that space is supreme, and that an architect modifies space as a sculptor works in clay."

When Mies van der Rohe took Lasdun to look at his newly completed apartments in Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Lasdun again felt a generation gap opening up. "Mies was very distressed that one owner had put in red curtains, another green. I told him the architecture was strong enough to take it, but this was not popular."

Lasdun's most revered building

is his Royal College of Physicians, overlooking Regent's Park. Its brilliance lies in a spectacular procession of ceremonial spaces — hall and stair, dining hall and library — which are in constant use. Although uncompromisingly modern in design, it effortlessly incorporates the college's splendid collection of portraits, silver, books and manuscripts, as well as a whole 17th-century panelled room and a wealth of armorial stained glass. If only the architects of Britain's bland new provincial law courts had used it as a model.

A masterful use of proportion is what sets apart Lasdun's best work. "When said there are two types of proportion, mathematical and customary," he says. "I use

customary. That is, I work by eye. I make models, and experiment. No model has ever left this office without a correctly scaled human figure inside."

The reason why his glass-fronted flats overlooking Green Park sit so happily next to the stone Palladian front of Spencer House is that the living rooms are all one-and-a-half storeys high, echoing the proportions of 18th-century drawing rooms. The same generosity of space marks his controversial Bethnal Green flats. "They're all duplexes. You'd never be able to create such space in council flats today," he says.

By contrast, when his ceilings are low, as in the foyers of University College London, they become op-

pressive. At UCL, the concrete is yellowing and pock-marked. At the National Theatre, the concrete surfaces are finished with exquisite care, still bearing the precise imprint of the rough wooden planks used as moulds. "I wanted the whole building, inside and out, to be built of one thing, like a church," Lasdun says.

People dislike the exterior today, for the good reason that it is streaked badly. Lasdun's response is that the building has not been touched since it was built. It tends to look best at night, when floodlit concrete appears white, not grey, and contrasts dramatically with deep shadows cast by balconies.

Significantly, the whole Academy exhibition will be in black and

white, as was William Curtis's recent Phaidon volume on Lasdun.

But, while a professional photographer will always find a superb angle on a Lasdun building, outside or in, there tend to be too many other angles which the general public finds less pleasing. The back of the National Theatre is a classic example. At the side and the front, meanwhile, Lasdun has won his battle on the walkways, which serve a purpose. But the National Theatre management deserves the chance to improve the entrance, which has manifestly never worked properly. If asked, surely Lasdun himself could rise to the challenge.

Much of Lasdun's work is not conventionally beautiful. But neither is that of his hero, the 18th-

century architect Nicholas Hawksmoor. "In him I see a man steeped in the classical language of architecture, but burning to do something different," Lasdun says. Lasdun likewise is at his best when he is original, and weaker when he is playing variations on a theme.

He believes there has been a demonisation of modern architecture — and concrete, too. But the Academy exhibition opens at a time when Modernism is newly fashionable and art gallery is being refurbished in minimalist style. The show will make him new friends — but will it convert old enemies?

● The Lasdun exhibition is at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, W1 0111-494 5615 from tomorrow to March 16



An architect by custom: Sir Denys Lasdun with a photograph of the clutter of models that produced his design for the National Theatre (shown in the background)

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

SARA FULGONI

Age: 28

Profession: Opera singer

Bizet schedule: She is about to wrap Don José around her little finger as Carmen, in Welsh National Opera's new Cardiff production. After *Carmen* tours England in March and April, she has engagements in Nice, Montpellier and Geneva.

Nervous? "It's intimidating to think of all the greats who've sung Carmen. But I'm more worried about the vocal demands. There's a temptation to overdo things. I could risk damaging my voice."

Bad press: Midway through a music degree at Hull University, her operatic debut as the only amateur soloist in *Hans Heiling*, by Heinrich Marschner, produced a "horrible" review in *Opera magazine*. "But a couple of years later the same critic said I'd improved 'beyond belief'. So in a funny sort of way it was worth being rubbish at first."

Why has teaching's loss been opera's gain? Fulgoni was all set to begin a postgraduate teacher training course in Cardiff when the Royal Northern College of Music and Drama offered her a place. By the time she graduated, she had collected a string of awards.

Operatic wish list: "I've always fancied having a crack at Delilah, and Kundry, in *Parsifal*."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL



Scenes in need of an ending

In his previous play, *Buddieia*, Paul Mercier followed the misfortunes of a Dublin house on its route to decay and demolition. He uses a comparably episodic structure in his new play, but this time the houses are caught at the start of their lives — not yet built, in fact.

What we see are the breeze-block walls of one of the houses on a new estate going up on the outskirts of the city, nibbling at the edges of hill-sides, streams and forest. A year or two later and the builders have nibbled that bit closer to the forest. And so on. Nibble, bite, gulp. Forty years after the houses on the first estate were built the girl who once wanted to trace the stream to its mountain source has become a grandmother. And the stream? Well, it's still around, after a fashion.

Except for one scene close to the end, when all four members of the cast appear together, the story advances through a succession of scenes for two characters. They enter wear-

Kitchensink
Tricycle

ing white masks (by John Duzane), smiling or scowling, hang these on a convenient nail and become, to begin with, Iona Helen (Deirdre Molloy) playing among the breeze-blocks with Iona Dany. When the scene ends she puts on the mask and another masked Helen (Cathy Belton), a few years older, takes her place. Likewise with Shane, Brendan and Helen's eventual husband, Dermot.

Mercier, who also directs, introduces a state of being — loneliness, lust, resentment, rage — intensifies it in the course of a scene, and then leaves us to imagine the immediate consequence because his story picks up again some time ahead. Its discontinuities are sometimes frustrating. In one scene the harassed couple tear



Deirdre Molloy and David Gorry in Paul Mercier's latest foray into the property market, *Kitchensink*

into each other so vindictively that it is hard to understand how or why they survived.

The male characters tend to launch into long speeches, riding over interruptions from the women and, after a plethora of these from Liam Carney's Dermot, I began to grow restless. But Mercier then introduces an enjoyably weird nightwatchman (David Gorry) and Carney's Dermot delivers an excellent tirade against unstoppable estates.

packed with surreal couplings — "sunbuds and flower beds". The play worked out where it was going and boldly went there.

Mercier's dialogue hurtles us into situations with little time wasted on scene-setting. This is good, but I wanted to see him stay with them to explore deeper, instead of hopping away when conflicts looked insoluble.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Thane of Monte

OPERA

Macbeth
Monaco

THE venerable character actor Maurice Denham tells a nice story about how, in his late seventies, he was rehearsing the part of an old man and going through his old-man repertoire of wobbly knees and stooping shoulders. "Maurice," his director told him, "just be yourself."

Vincenzo Grisostroni, director of the new production of Verdi's *Macbeth* at Monte Carlo Opera, might usefully have said something of the kind to Renato Bruson. Bruson presents himself as a Thane of Cawdor so feeble that not even Maria Guleghina, a Lady Macbeth of formidable beauty and ferocious authority, could have roused him to do what he goes on to do. As his obsession possesses him, he does grow in heroic stature, but it is always clear that Giacomo Prestia's splendidly sonorous Banquo will win in the end, with or without the tenor alliance of the excellent Paul Charles Clark as Macduff and Alberto Janelis as Malcolm.

It is rare to find a *Macbeth* so well sung in all the major roles — sensationally as far as Lady Macbeth is concerned — and even rarer to find one

which includes virtually all the ballet music written for the Paris version of 1865. Grisostroni evidently sees the supernatural element, which is what the ballet is all about, as no less important than the political.

Alfredo Trevis's sets are well designed and, in accordance with the generally Celtic decor, there is not a scrap of tartan to be seen. The procession of kings in the third act is not so much a parade of Scottish history, one feels, as an allusion to the 700 years of Grimaldis currently being celebrated in the principality.

Certainly, it is at this point that the conducting of Lukas Karytinos is at its most perceptive. Although he fails to make the most of the banquet scene in the second act, he inspires more and more confidence in the chorus and orchestra as the evening goes on.

GERALD LARNER

Out for the count

A BOY who breaks into a former boxing champion's house, hoping to carve some money out of him with a fruit knife, might have chosen his victim with more care. The West Indian boxer flattens the 12-year-old and trusses him up. Things start looking even grimmer for young Joseph when Pharoah (sic) threatens to bury him "in the back yard".

The first few minutes of *Randhi McWilliams' Everybody Knows All Birds Have Wings* at the Pleasance in London quiver with unpredictable promise. But as Pharoah's intentions are revealed to be nothing more sinister than sorting the boy out, the focus shifts to the bond forged between the reclusive former fighter and the criminally neglected youth. Pharoah is tortured by nightmares about his last title bout while Joseph is made to do a lot of

character-building housework. Predictably the boxer grows to love the rearing adolescent in spite of himself, and Joseph finds a father.

Sadly, McWilliams's production for Kuts Like A Knife turns out to have the cutting edge of a blunt spoon. Joseph, played with dogged enthusiasm by Matthew Cureton, grows from a 12-year-old urchin into a 22-year-old urchin. And Ben Thomas's grumpy Pharoah finds a pitiable wife.

There are other confusing tangents. Between scenes, an obnoxious radio talk-show host gives abusive, get-real advice to listeners. This, it transpires, is the adult Joseph dispensing the kind of evangelism that Pharoah once spouted at him. It is touching that boxer and boy end up adoring each other, but pure sentiment is bad dramatic glue.

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BY RICHARD NELSON

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DANCE

P.J. Harvey and John Parish stamp their distinctive musical style on a new dance work



MUSIC 1

The Estonians are coming: Birmingham looks to the Baltic for its new sounds

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 2

Joshua Bell sounds out Belfast's new hall with a fine performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto



OFFER

Special prices for Rossini's Italian Girl: see Theatre Club (below) for details

Chemistry lesson for voice and feet

DANCE: Nigel Williamson on why pop star Polly Jean Harvey's latest album was a choreographer's dream

Collaborations between rock music and contemporary dance have a chequered history — and performing them together live is a particularly high-risk strategy. "Dance and music ought to go together better than anything else," says the composer and guitarist John Parish, who has teamed up with the singer Polly Jean Harvey in the latest such effort. "Maybe it's the snobbery of rock and the inverted snobbery of rock which have dictated that these two forms will clash in some way. To me it seems obvious to put them together."

Harvey and Parish are currently touring Britain with *Dance Hall At Louse Point*, a cycle of jointly written experimental songs, accompanied by the Mark Bruce Dance Company. The shows have sold out on the strength of Harvey's pop success and the production goes some way towards proving Parish's last week suggested a natural chemistry between the five musicians and Bruce's five dancers. They could so easily have clashed; for Harvey, every inch the star, is a charismatic focus on any stage with her sharp, angular features and twitchy movements. Many of Bruce's images are ambiguous representations of love, death and redemption while Harvey's voice slashes at the air like a knife.

What they share is an intensity of emotion which has allowed Bruce to create an ambience in which Harvey's almost anarchic presence complements the precision of the choreography. "What I like about dance and music is that it is open to different interpretation, so I take

just a feel of the music and even if the image I come up with is different, they connect on a sensual level," says Bruce.

One of the reasons *Louse Point* succeeds better than most is that the music and dance were conceived together, an organic process in which Bruce spent time in the studio with Harvey and Parish while the music was taking shape. Many of the failures in the genre, such as Roland Peñís *Le Pink Floyd Ballet*, have consisted of a choreographer hijacking an already successful piece of rock music.

Bruce is dedicated to his art and passionate about his work with Harvey. "I wanted to work with her because her music reflected what I was trying to do with dance. I'm very interested in what you can do with simple forms and she starts off with such strong, basic elements. The songs are very stark, yet at the same time there is a lot of attention to detail."

They agreed in principle that they wanted to work together and just over a year ago Harvey rang Bruce to say that she had found the right project. "There was a lot of suggestion of movement that attracted me to the music," Bruce says. "I had images for it straight away. After that you have to pull it apart and translate the elements into dance terms. Then you have to slim them down to a few basic ideas, otherwise you can end up with a complete mess."

For Harvey and Parish there was also a technical challenge. "The band has to be set up on stage for visual effect to complement the



Steve Barclay-White and Joanna Fong of the Mark Bruce Dance Company: "There was a lot of suggestion of movement that attracted me to the music," Bruce says

dance, not simply for the best acoustic sound. There are spaces between the music where the dance sometimes continues and so we've also had to learn to take cues from dance which is entirely new for us." Parish's music is spare and edgy. The dark, brooding sound suits perfectly Harvey's emotive voice, screaming, whispering, one moment pleading, the next defiant. The emotional canvas of Harvey's

songwriting is broad, too, although there are few happy endings. In one song she takes on the persona of a soldier writing home from war about the dehumanising effect of seeing so much death; others deal with sex, guilt and abandonment. Harvey and Parish have worked together on and off for a decade. She was a member of his band Automatic Dlamini for three years before going on to solo success.

"John and I wanted to do an album together for a long time," she says. "This is the first time I have written the words for someone else's music. It has changed my approach to songwriting."

The album when it was released last year received mixed reviews from critics who had not had an opportunity to hear the work as it was meant to be experienced. One review complained that the

songs were "more a series of themes and word paintings"; another called it "sketchy". It is only on stage that the wider purpose becomes evident.

The inspiration for the collaboration — or at least its title — draws upon yet a third discipline. "I'm a big fan of Willem de Kooning's abstract landscapes," says Parish. "I saw this painting called *Rosy Fingered Dawn* in Amsterdam and

thought it was a beautiful picture. Then you read that the setting is Louse Point, which is a real place on Long Island. It sounded so decrepit but interesting and that seemed relevant to what we are doing."

● *Dance Hall At Louse Point* is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, tomorrow to Sun; Sheffield Crucible Feb 10-11; Newcastle Playhouse Feb 17-19; Oxford Playhouse Feb 21

MUSIC: The CBSO is drawing inspiration from Eastern Europe and reviving an old Estonian friendship, says Joanna Pitman. Plus concert reviews

Are the Baltic states launching a takeover of our most cherished musical traditions at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra? First a Finn, Sakari Oramo, is appointed principal conductor to take over from Sir Simon Rattle when he leaves in 1998. Then we find an Estonian, Paavo Järvi, taking up his three-year post this week as principal guest conductor. And then we discover that the CBSO's programme is peppered with works by contemporary Estonian composers, beginning tonight with a performance of Erkki-Sven Tüür's *Zeitraum*.

Birmingham's Baltic invasion

Järvi (pronounced "Yairvi") and Tüür were contemporaries at the Tallinn Conservatory of Music in the late 1970s, fighting Soviet cultural occupation, experimenting with Estonia's own musical heritage, and hoarding snippets of Western musical culture.

In 1980, both aged 17, they

parted company. Järvi left with his family to live in America; Tüür stayed in Estonia, where he struggled against the dead hand of authoritarian control. Now they are back together, swapping stories and introducing the world to Estonian music.

Järvi always had an advantage as the son of Neeme Järvi, who is today the musical director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Even in the 1970s he was a leading Baltic conductor, able to travel and bring back snapshots of the outside world to his family. "We had masses of books,

musical scores and my father's tales of his travels."

But life was oppressive in every way, so Neeme Järvi moved the family to New York. "I remember arriving at Kennedy Airport. We were whisked off onto this huge four-lane highway and I remember wondering how I was going to survive. I spoke no English, I knew so little about the world."

Neeme got work with the New York Philharmonic and young Paavo entered the Juilliard School. By 1994 he was making his early conducting debut around the world, and now he is principal guest conductor of both the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the CBSO.

Even if he dresses like a Manhattan modernist architect and is fluent in designer-speak, Järvi is unwaveringly Estonian, and the music of his homeland will be on the menu

wherever his baton leads him. A champion of the works of Arvo Pärt and Edvard Tüür, he is also intent on opening our ears to the works of Tüür.

For Tüür, it was only after the first stirrings of perestroika in the late 1980s that new sounds from all over the world started to trickle in to his controlled isolation. Ravenous for stimulation, he responded fast, turning out an idiosyncratic range of cantatas, a requiem, symphonies, a cello concerto, a saxophone quartet.

He has come a long way since his childhood on a tiny island off the Estonian coast, where his pastor father encouraged him to sing and to listen to his threadbare classical LP collection. "I taught myself music, borrowed a flute, graduated from music college and began composition at the Tallinn Conservatory."

He set up a "chamber rock band" and experimented with Renaissance and Baroque polyphonic models. When the band was invited to play in Finland and Sweden, the Moscow authorities said *niel*.

"The Brezhnev era was the worst. We were sealed off from the outside. No personal contact with the outside. And our modernist music pretty quickly ran out of ideas. But my teacher had friends in the West and through him I managed to listen to Ligeti, Boulez, Stockhausen, Steve Reich."

In the next few weeks Tüür's music will travel, under Järvi's baton, from Birmingham to Toronto, Los Angeles and Hong Kong. We'll be seeing a lot more of these Estonians.

● *Zeitraum* can be heard at Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333) tonight at 7.30pm. Searching for Roots, an album of music by Erkki-Sven Tüür, is released by EMI in April

Friday's London Symphony Orchestra concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the latest instalment in its "The Composer Conducts" series, brought together James Wood and the orchestra in a programme titled "Sounds of Africa". But there was nothing tangibly African about Wood's own work, *The Parliament of Angels*, which received its British premiere here: it was inspired by a series of frescoes in Bayeux Cathedral depicting angelic musicians, each playing a different instrument. Wood brings each of them to life in an increasingly rowdy "debate", to be called to order

by a tolling bell representing the "speaker". It is a bright idea, with some bewitching effects, but the 20-minute score lacks a distinctive voice. One of the most distinctive voices in modern music, Ligeti, was represented by his glistering Piano Concerto. The African influences are still audible in the polyrhythms that drive the piece with rumbustious energy. Pierre-Laurent Aimard was a soloist of exuberant virtuosity and, like the orchestral players, he

revelled in the work's dazzling wit while also finding all the desolation of the second movement, with its scraps of folk-like melody dangling over a drab drone.

Strong rhythms also powered Thierry de Mey's *Frisking*. The piece inhabits a strange, ethereal sound world, with percussionists scratching away at a pair of piano frames while wind players breathe through their instruments, clicking their keys. All are put under a "sound microscope"

and amplified to fill the hall. But this British premiere was a curiously empty experience. *Frisking* needs the choreography which it was written to accompany.

Just as hypnotic but much more memorable was Frank Denyer's *After the Rain*. Even though it derives many of its haunting effects from a trio of ocarinas and the shakuhachi, a Japanese bamboo flute played by Yoshikazu Iwamoto, it evokes the transformation of an arid African landscape after rain like a vibrant yet gentle tone poem.

JOHN ALLISON

Lobby fodder

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JOHN ALLISON

LONDON

Feb 7, 11 (7.30pm), Feb 13 (6.30pm)

● ROSSINI'S early opera *The Italian Girl in Algiers* is revived in a new ENO production created by Howard Davies, well known for his work at the National Theatre. Della Jones sings the role of Isabella "with great wit and understanding" (according to *The Times*), with Charles Workman as Lindoro. Theatre Club members can save 25 per cent on tickets (normally £6.50 to £50). Tel 0171-632 8500 (9.30am to 8.30pm, Mon to Sat), quoting your membership number. Hurry, because tickets are limited.

Peacock Theatre

Feb 4, 11 (8pm)

● THE legendary flamenco guitarist Paco Peña has brought his renowned dance company to London for a major West End season. Club members can buy top-priced seats for only £15 (normally £25). Tel 0171-314 8800.

Duke of York's

Feb 13-15, 18-19 (7.30pm)

● THE Royal Court's production of Doug Lucie's new play *The Shallow End*, a darkly comic attack on the culture of scratchcards, prize wars, media dominance and victory at any price, features Jane Asher and Tony Doyle. Save 25 per cent on top-priced seats (normally £15 to £18). Tel 0171-565 5000 (10am to 6pm, Mon to Sat).

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"The Brezhnev era was worst. We were sealed off"

era was the worst. We were sealed off, stagnating. No personal contact with the outside. And our modernist music pretty quickly ran out of ideas. But my teacher had friends in the West and through him I managed to listen to Ligeti, Boulez, Stockhausen, Steve Reich."

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Sitting more comfortably these days: composer Erkki-Sven Tüür (left) and conductor Paavo Järvi

Water music

Belfast's beautiful new Waterfront Hall is being put through its paces. The Ulster Orchestra's third concert in the hall's Opening Festival was the first real test of its acoustic. In the absence of television cameras, the stage deflectors could now be lowered into their true position for the first time.

Joshua Bell's performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto was glorious confirmation of the practical as well as the aesthetic achievement of the Waterfront. With his orchestral colleagues already brightly defined, Bell's solo violin was held in a steady glow of resonance: warm but light and live enough to register every nuance of articulation in his characteristically poised performance.

And then Mahler. To test the hall to its limits, I moved after the interval to the most distant seat I could find. For vision there seems to be not a dud seat in the house. For sound, too, clarity of texture seems constant; only the strings are marginally less vibrant and immediate. And Matthias Bamert's performance of Mahler's First tended, in any case, towards the soft-focus.

At present, the Ulster Orchestra plans to play only eight out of its annual 30 Belfast concerts in the Waterfront Hall, with the rest in its old home, the Ulster Hall. There seems no doubt that it can fill the Waterfront's 2,250 seats and it will surely soon adapt to the wider stage.

One only hopes that the Ulster Hall, a jewel in Belfast's crown of mid-19th-century architecture, will not become the poor relation and be deprived of refurbishment.

HILARY FINCH

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£70	£75	£80	£85	£90	£95
£100	£105	£110	£115	£120	£125

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Lightning speeds

Gregg shorthand remembered

A READER was disappointed to find only a brief mention of the Gregg shorthand in my article on shorthand (Polish Up Your Rusty Skills, Dec 9, Julia Lewis writes. Mrs Pauline Goodridge learnt Gregg in 1947, reaching a speed of 140 words a minute. Fifty years later, she is still using it. "I now attend French classes and the other students are really envious when they see me dashing off lightning notes."

Although Gregg is still taught abroad, mainly in Ireland and America, it appears to have gradually faded out over the past 30 years in Britain. Gregg shorthand was the invention of an Irishman, John Robert Gregg. He decided to create a shorthand that would flow, with outlines sloping the same way, vowels and consonants following each other in a "natural order" and few angles. His *Light Line Phonography* was first published in Liverpool in 1888.

One place that taught Gregg until the late Eighties was The Langham Secretarial College, in London, now part of Queens-Marlborough. Mildred Stearn, the former principal, believes it has an advantage in having no thick or thin strokes, making it ideally suited to the ball-point pen. Its flowing movement too makes it easier to reach high speeds.

How do you organise a project or set up a conference? Sally Watts on a course that gives good advice

Planned to the nth degree



Suzanne Bracken will help to organise the 50th anniversary of the City of London's women police

Do we have to book the speakers first? Before we produce the budget, should we organise meals? It says identify transport needs and choose a supplier... but we have yet to get the response from people who will attend. Do we have to do all this before we can produce a budget? Would we send the invitations before we know which speakers we are booking?

Six secretaries are organising a conference, on the second of the Industrial Society's two-day pilot course on project management. Yesterday they learnt the basics of managing a project: defining it, writing objectives, determining critical success factors (what could stop you achieving your goal) and terms of reference (identifying the scope of the project).

Today, using flip charts, they are producing diagrams and bar charts to take them through a sequence of time and priorities in which almost every activity depends on the completion of others. Nearby, two other groups are doing the same exercise - in all, 16 secretaries and PAs.

Why project management for secretaries? Marjory Mair, IS head of secretarial and administrative development, says that surveys reveal both that secretaries want wider responsibilities and that bosses want them to take on more. Several managers, whose secretaries are here today, have specific

projects in mind for them: planning an anniversary or mounting a campaign.

Some, like Catherine Morgan and Victoria Gibbs, are on the fringe of project management, and are keen to learn more. Ms Morgan, who has sales and export experience and is a qualified build-

er's merchant, is a secretary at a railway maintenance company in Derby; she may soon be giving part-time help to two project managers.

Ms Gibbs, as secretary administrator to the head of projects at Lombard Bank, Enfield, finds the course is teaching her "an under-

standing of where to start and how to structure a project". It will give her more confidence, she says, and greater awareness of how project managers work.

Bill Carpenter, a project manager and course leader, is pleased with progress. The work, he says, is not solely for managers who have

trained in the subject: once the basic routine is mastered, you can handle any project; it grows easier with practice.

As PA to Judy Davidson, the City of London's first woman Police Commander (operations), Suzanne Bracken is to help to organise the 50th anniversary, in 1999, of the City's women police. Ms Bracken takes minutes at meetings between police, the Corporation of London and the City charity, Crime-stoppers, liaises and monitors developments. "The bar charts will be excellent to show what we have done, what we still have to do and the time there is to do it," she says.

Commander Davidson believes that the "course will help Suzanne with decision-making. She has a very broad task and the 50th anniversary will be a real test for the course".

Mr Carpenter's advice is: If it's a long task, divide it up and decide in advance on monitoring points. Monitor 1) costs (keep within budget); 2) time scales (with each task completed to the right quality); 3) use of resources. Monitoring, he says, is the secret of getting projects on time, within budget and at the standard you want.

Project Management for Secretaries, £80 plus VAT for member companies, £50 plus VAT for non-members, will be held in London in May and October. Later this year it will also be in Belfast, Birmingham, Leeds and either Edinburgh or Glasgow (0171-262 2401).

Diplomacy the answer

How to cope with telephone rage

HOW would you cope with a difficult client on the telephone? This was one of the questions put to Claire Taylor, 21, who last month won the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Top Secretary of the Year award. The answer was diplomacy.



Claire Taylor: top secretary

"I'm the youngest of four brothers and sisters," she says, "so I couldn't beat them or shout louder. I had to be diplomatic, so I learnt to be diplomatic on the phone." Claire, a self-confessed karaoke addict, beat 500 other candidates to the award, presented by the Lord Mayor of Westminster at the Café Royal. A secretary at J.M. Butler, chartered accountants, of Alresford in Hampshire, she wins a teddy bear, a medallion and travel vouchers.

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The successful applicant is likely to be a graduate or have skills, experience and potential commensurate with graduate status. This is a key position for someone who has at least 5 years' relevant background and is highly motivated, a self-starter and who is able to deal confidently and diplomatically with senior staff at Board level. Experience of working closely within science, medicine or healthcare in its wider application, would be a distinct advantage.

In return we offer a starting salary of around £22,000 with more available for an exceptional candidate. In addition, we offer the full range of Civil Service benefits including a non-contributory pension.

For an application form and further details please telephone Chantal Commercial 0171 273 0516 or write to Mr M J Gosling, Head of Personnel, Room 1606, Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5NQ quoting reference CE46/1/97. Applications must be received by 21 February 1997.

As an Equal Opportunity employer the Department welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality. We operate flexible working patterns within a non-smoking environment.



Secretary

£14,758 - £18,056 p.a.

The BMA is the doctors' professional association and provides a wide range of services to its members.

We are looking for an experienced secretary to provide back up to the team who service major committees at the heart of the association's activities.

Applicants should have formal secretarial training, at least two years' relevant experience and fast, accurate audio/wordprocessing skills (WordPerfect 6.1). A confident telephone manner is essential.

Please apply in writing, enclosing CV to:

Human Resources Department,
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JP.

We are unable to acknowledge all applications and only those selected for interview will be contacted.

Closing date: 18th February 1997



SENIOR SECRETARY

Salary c.£20,000 benefits available

Find up with large firms? Fancy responsibility? Have property experience?

70wpm typing and W4W? - Come and run our small busy office of Investment

Surveyors.

Send a CV with covering letter to:

Hodder Stablesbury, 115 Mount Street,
London W1Y 5HD

Strictly no agencies please.

Only one part of the job is interest-free.

The season ticket loan.

Join McKinsey and you will receive a competitive salary,

a non-contributory pension, life insurance, health and dental

insurance, free lunches, five weeks' holiday a year, use of

our gym and, of course, that interest-free season ticket loan.

Yet none of these benefits is the real reason to work here.

You will come to us because we offer the opportunity to be

involved in some of the most stimulating projects in business

today - and because your contribution will be valued.

We are a leading international firm of management

consultants, advising the top people in some of the world's largest

organisations. When you operate at this level, nothing less than

the best will do. Working alongside our consultants, you will

provide the secretarial and administrative support which ensures

we achieve it.

Ours is an open environment where your contribution will

be taken seriously. We offer a range of roles in which you

can join us, including the occasional opportunity to travel overseas.

We look for people with proficient WP and graphics skills

and experience, the ability to handle multiple responsibilities,

and a graduate-calibre mind. Above all, though, it is your

personal qualities which will bring you success. You must work

well with both colleagues and clients, which calls for strong

communications skills, plenty of initiative, and an enthusiasm

for team-working. Flexibility is vital, as you'll often be required

to work additional hours (for which we pay overtime).

If you have what it takes, you should express your

interest now. Send your full cv (including current salary details)

to Rose Quinn, McKinsey & Company, No 1 Jermyn Street,

London SW1Y 4UH.

McKinsey & Company

£16,577 + Benefits

London SW1

The Audit Commission is a high profile organisation working with local authorities, police authorities and the National Health Service to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Join us and you will be providing secretarial support to an Associate Director and professional team.

A good knowledge of Word for Windows is essential. Your work will be varied so you should have broad-based administrative experience gained in a busy professional office. Experience with simple graphics packages and spreadsheets is desirable. You will also have a good telephone manner. Highly organised and at your best as part of a secretarial team, you must be able to work under pressure.

The benefits package includes the opportunity for performance-related pay of up to 15% of basic salary per year (excluding London allowance) and an all-zones Capital Card. There is a contributory pension scheme.

To apply please send your CV plus a covering letter outlining your key strengths, experience of Word and other software packages over the past 12 months and a contact telephone number to Jane Holpin, Recruitment Officer, Human Resources, The Audit Commission, Nicholson House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS12 6SU. Closing date: Tuesday 18 February 1997. Interviews will take place: 27/28 February 1997, and those invited to take part will be notified on 25 February by telephone.

No agencies please

WE ARE AN

EQUAL

OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYER AND A

NO-SMOKING

ORGANISATION.

A.U.D.I.T

Administrative Secretary - Examinations Department

£15,671 - £19,829

The Royal College of Physicians sets the standards and influences the quality of medical practice in hospitals through training, education and research activities. The Examinations Department consists of the Senior Manager and 15 staff. It deals with the administration of the Membership examinations on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and London and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow as well as Diploma examinations of the London College.

A vacancy now exists to support the Senior Manager in a wide range of administrative and secretarial duties. You will possess excellent word processing and audio-typing skills and be able to demonstrate interpersonal and organisational skills of a high level. You will have a flexible approach to working as part of a team and the ability to work under pressure while at the same time achieving high standards of accuracy. Previous experience within an Examinations environment is desirable.

Benefits including 20 days leave, additional days at Christmas and Easter, free staff lunches, season ticket loan and contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form please telephone 0171 487 2820 (24 hour answer phone) quoting reference EX013. Closing date for applications is Friday 21 February 1997. Interviews will be held on Friday 7 March 1997.

The College has a 'No Smoking' policy

Registered Charity No: 210506

RCP - setting standards in medical practice



Royal College of Physicians
London

Executive Personal Assistant

£15,103 - £17,927 Central London

The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust provides vital accident and emergency and transport services to London's population of over 7 million residents. Right now, we have a high profile opportunity for an efficient secretary to join us in providing administrative support to board directors.

Your responsibilities will include arranging and servicing meetings, co-ordinating papers, collating agendas and taking minutes. You will brief directors prior to appointments, deal with all incoming correspondence and generally prioritise their workload. Working as part of a team, you will also be expected to cover during the absence of your fellow executive PAs.

Your audio and WP skills should include a working knowledge of MS Office and Word for Windows. We'll also expect you to have well developed organisational and planning skills together with a genuine ability to communicate with people at all levels.

Please send a CV and covering letter to: Norah Mason, Personnel Department, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 220 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8SD. The closing date for receipt of application forms is 21 February 1997.

The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust is committed to equal opportunities. We also operate a smoke-free workplace.



LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE
NHS TRUST

TEAM SECRETARY

Architects in Kensington are looking to recruit a Team Secretary. Must have excellent W4W & Excel, be flexible, possess a sense of humour and be able to work well within a team.

Salary £15,000.

Please apply with CV and covering letter to:

Sam Dwyer

Chapman Taylor Partners

364 Kensington High Street

London W14 8NS

Fax 0171 371 1948

PERSONAL ASSISTANT - SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR

Are you a dynamic, well organised and experienced P.A.

A team player with a sense of humour, strong personality

and that something special putting you ahead of the crowd?

We need someone of the above calibre, willing to

become fully involved in this diverse role within a fast

moving, high profile and image conscious environment.

If you think you fit the bill, apply in writing to:

Miss Paula Webb

PR & Marketing Co-ordinator

McLaren Cars Limited.

General Business Park

Albert Drive, Woking GU21 5RW

Secretarial Assistant

required for Political

Consultancy. Excellent secretarial

skills and confidence telephone

manner. Experience with W4W

preferred. Salary package

£14,000 + benefits.

CV to Angela Dunn, RPU,

50 Rochester Row, SW1P 1JL or

fax 0171 828 7217.

Financial Group in SW1 seeks

Secretary/Receptionist for

small, friendly, hard working team.

MS Word for Windows, PowerPoint & Excel.

Mature and calm non-smoker.

Salary commensurate with age and experience.

Please send CV by mail or Fax (0171 878 2200) to

Mrs K DuBois, MVI (UK) Ltd,

17 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AR.

PA/SEC to MD.

Sal £20K neg.

MD of prestigious, expanding retail & distribution company needs a pro-

active, confident and highly organised PA with excellent telephone

skills and a good knowledge of MS Office and Word for Windows.

As well as providing excellent support, you will be the

front of all office administration and responsible for the day to day

running of the office. Please send CV to: Mrs K DuBois, MVI (UK) Ltd,

17 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AR.

4 MTH MATERNITY LEAVE COVER

Fully trained 25-35 yrs old, 60

week holiday, pension, good

benefits, friendly with a sense of

humour & a flexible attitude.

Apply to: Mrs K DuBois, MVI (UK) Ltd,

17 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AR.

Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

ROOM AT THE TOP

The Most Famous Company In The World?
Executive PA £27,000 Package + Perks

This is a fantastic opportunity for an experienced PA to join a leading company. The role involves a variety of tasks including travel, client liaison, and general secretarial duties. The successful candidate will be based in the West End and will be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the company's operations.

This is a fantastic opportunity for an experienced PA to join a leading company. The role involves a variety of tasks including travel, client liaison, and general secretarial duties. The successful candidate will be based in the West End and will be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the company's operations.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

VICTORIA
£20,000

+ bonus, gym, restaurant, pension, BUPA. This high profile consultancy is offering senior level involvement and responsibility, including international liaison, co-ordinating recruitment and administration. Suit energetic, confident person with a passion for quality. 55wpm typing. Advanced Windows knowledge. Please telephone 0171 495 2321

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSSENIOR PA
£20,700

Friendly and successful west end company offer involvement, challenge and security in this senior level support role. 80wpm shorthand and 50wpm typing. Please telephone 0171 495 2321 for further information.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSWEST END TEMPS
Secretaries and receptionists• Top hourly rates, loyalty bonus and paid bank holidays.
• Cross training onto the latest systems.
• Immediate short and long term assignments matched to your individual experience and skills.Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSPROPERTY
£21,000

This opportunity entails involvement with confidential personal matters and client liaison with an upmarket property company located in beautiful west end offices. A solid secretarial background is necessary with industry related experience an advantage.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSDOCKLANDS
£28,000

For a board level secretary with fluent French or German, this prestigious financial organisation offer involvement, interest and an international flavour. A real career move to ensure your future development. Please telephone 0171 628 9529

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSWORKING
JOB OF 1997PA to Chairman in PR
up to £27,000

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be the "right hand" woman to one of the most talented and likeable men in PR. As Chairman for Europe of London's top PR Consultancy, his responsibilities are enormous and far reaching. He needs a PA to organise everything in his working day, and refreshingly welcomes being "organised".

Shorthand and Speedwriting and a European Language are preferable together with Chairman or MD level experience.

If you apply for anything this year, apply for this job. Call Nathalie NOW on 0171 240 0040 or fax over CV to 0171 240 1969. (Emails both tel or fax 0171 940 5663).

Working Girls, 17 Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7PA.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

£27,000 Basic + Benefits

An Executive Assistant with a flair for organisation and an in-depth knowledge of business etiquette is required to manage the complex and diverse commitments of a well known entrepreneur. A large part of the job will involve client management as well as the organisation of his hectic private life and the running of his country estate. Excellent secretarial skills are a prerequisite 100/60.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

ARE YOU THE ONE

Financial Services Consultancy seeks highly motivated to add two busy Executives. 60% of your day will consist of managing appointments with existing clients and diary management. The other 40% will be sales based. Therefore good telephone techniques and interpersonal skills a MUST. Salary £15,000 plus bonus in 6 months. No Agency.

Please call Abi on 0171 487 3831 or fax CV on 0171 935 3378

Aldrich & Company Recruitment Consultants

Banking Secretary
• £20K + bank bens

A proactive team player - lots of responsibility and full involvement supporting salesmen, liaising with clients & gathering research. A challenging role and great fun! Call Emma Marks

Tel: 0171 588 8999

PA Trading Floor
• £25K + bank bens

Bright, pro-active PA required for the Head of sales bond trading. A front line role for a confident communicator with strong Secretarial & organisational skills and a sense of humour. Call Sarah Turnbull

Tel: 0171 588 8999

Total Right Hand
• £20K + bank bens

Office Management skills essential for this varied and interesting role. Must be a team player with an assertive manner. High levels of communication, focus areas: budgets, personnel & systems. Call Emily Aldrich

Tel: 0171 588 8999

Time to Temp??
• to £10.00 per hour

Want to work in the city? We can help you make that move. You need good secretarial skills - we can cross train you on relevant systems and have excellent on-going temp contracts. Call Kim St John

Tel: 0171 588 8999

TIME TO ESCAPE?

Marketing Secretary with German

If you have previous Trading Floor experience, then German and excellent secretarial skills WHERE ARE YOU? As part of the Marketing Admin Team you will provide full support regarding travel, expenses, enquiries, producing secretarial material in both German and English and preparing presentation material. Advanced Word for Windows, PowerPoint and Excel, excellent written and spoken English/German essential.

PowerPoint Whizz Kid

Do you have advanced PowerPoint and good secretarial skills? If you have 50wpm typing, are flexible on overtime and want to work for 2 dynamic Associates, we can offer you the following: weekly involvement, flexible office and a company that cannot be beaten. Ideal age 20-35. Call now for an immediate interview.

Sales Support

£20,000 + Benefits City Based

ARE YOU A WHIZZ ON THE PC, able to load CDs and use your GIFT OF THE GAB to talk about Bant? Join this small Marketing Team of an INTERNATIONAL COMPANY and get involved in CLIENT CONTACT, Chatting Meetings, some Travel Overseas etc.

Call now for an immediate interview.

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WANTED

Temporary Secretaries

For immediate long and short term temporary Secretaries, our reliable, friendly, temporary division requires:

• A minimum of one years secretarial experience.

• Aged 18-40 years old.

• Shortlist of 50wpm - advantageous.

• Audio of 50wpm.

• Experience of Windows packages.

• Well presented and well spoken.

• Constant work.

• Temp to perm opportunities.

• Competitive rates.

• Excellent benefits.

Call now for an immediate interview.

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PAN EUROPEAN

RECRUITMENT

TEL: 0171 734 8484

FAX: 0171 734 8501

TRADING FLOOR

£18,000 + O/T + BENEFITS

This is an exciting opportunity to work in the Fixed Income Department of a major International Bank in the City. Duties are extremely varied and include coordinating foreign travel, expenses, diary management for the Head of department as well as assisting in preparing reports and budgets. Minimum A level education, Microsoft Office and a desire to succeed required.

Please contact Margaret Sorohan

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,

No 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP

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EXECUTIVE PA

TO £25,000 + MS + BENEFITS

Based in the West End Office of a leading American Bank you will be working for the two most senior Directors. The role involves secretarial support including shorthand as well as coordinating and managing your own projects. This is a high profile position requiring initiative and excellent communication skills. Financial background essential.

Please contact Margaret Sorohan

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,

No 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP

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La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

Human Resources

Victoria
Up to 21K + Exc. Bens.

Well known investment bank seeks a team secretary for two senior managers within the innovative HR department. Combine 50% secretarial support with 50% involvement in all their recruitment procedures. If you have good qualifications, 60wpm typing, Powerpoint, Excel and Word 6 call Tara Lyons on 0171 434 4512

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsGood All-Rounder?
Fab Bens
c£20,000

Fabulous secretary with excellent Word, Excel and especially Powerpoint, required for dynamic international company to support two Vice-Presidents. Get involved with projects and face new challenges in this cosmopolitan environment. Team spirit and a sense of humour essential. Typing 60wpm, shorthand ideal. Age 25-35. Please call Susanna Hargreaves on 0171 434 4512

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsHuman Resources Administrator
£25,000 package

The huge Global Market trading floor of this US bank has its own HR team dealing with everything from strategy to recruitment. As support to the high profile HR executives and first point of contact for the floor, your work will be varied and involve requiring excellent admin, secretarial, organisational and interpersonal skills. We need a problem solver who responds calmly to crises, is resilient and endlessly flexible with good W4W/Excel. No aspiring HR professionals please Telephone Catherine Ferguson on 0171 390 7000

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsPA - IT
Barbican
£20,000 & bens

Energetic PA with a keen interest in IT required to provide full support to this dynamic City executive. He will fully involve you and encourage you to develop your skills further. Varied duties include co-ordinating client entertainment; personnel issues; powerpoint presentations; co-ordinating the office refurbishment. Skills: 60 wpm typing, MS Office. Please call Vanessa Mitchell on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsHeadhunting You!
Young, Dynamic Co.
to £16,000

This is a great opportunity for a personable and proactive secretary to join this expanding firm of headhunters which is definitely 'going places'. You will be working for a team of consultants and duties will include setting up interviews, typing CVs and liaising with clients. You will be kept busy in this lively and professional environment. Skills: 40 wpm/Windows. Age: 18-26. Please call Sarah Burt on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment ConsultantsPA to MD
Environment issues - W1
£22,000
Strong organiser

Co-ordinator
Media Recruitment - WC2
£20,000
Outgoing, good typing

Administrator
Strategy Consultants - W1
£20,000
IT/graphics + sec skills

Business Planning
Global Brands - W6
£25,000
Senior Sec/PA background

HR/Admin Secretary
New York based co - W1
to £18,000
Graphics, Spanish useful

PA in Sales
Management
Business Services - EC4
£17,500
Strong interpersonal skills

Personnel Admin/Support
National conferences - EC1
£18,000
Min 2 years' sec exp

Training Admin/Support
HR Training Co - EC1
£14,000
Good keyboard skills

Team PA
Creative Design - EC1
£20,000
Flexible, good typing

Italian-speaking PA
Corporate Finance - W1
£19,000
Legal/finance experience

HR/Admin Secretary
New York based co - W1
to £18,000
Graphics, Spanish useful

PA in Sales
Management
Business Services - EC4
£17,500
Strong interpersonal skills

Looking for work which makes you think?
Call 0171-434 4488, let's talk. Or fax 0171-434 4488.

GORDON YATES
A member of Crone Corkill

PA/Desk Assistant
Capital Markets
£28-25,000 ann (+ banking bens)

Join this thriving investment bank as you make their under structure in City and in the City. The bank is looking for a PA/Desk Assistant to support the Managing Director and the Managing Director's Office. The role involves a wide range of administrative and secretarial duties, including typing, filing, and general office management. The successful candidate will be a proactive, organised, and efficient individual with excellent communication skills. The salary is £28-25,000 ann (+ banking bens). Please call May & Stephens on 0171 434 4512.

MAY & STEPHENS
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'It's not all about competition'

The Football Association had decreed that the county associations must accept professional clubs as affiliated members. The Home Counties refused and formed their own federation.

Thus became further entrenched the separation of amateur and professional codes, with the English Schools FA (ESFA) firmly aligned behind the barricades with the amateurs. For 86 years, until the ESFA made peace with the professional game four years ago and allowed professional coaching from the age of eight, the best boys in England were denied the benefit of first-hand contact with the

professional game until they were 15. The first revelation of my rural-bound boyhood came at 15, when going to see Tottenham Hotspur's champion team of 1951 playing at Fulham and witnessing a brand of inter-passing "push and run" that was as magical as the first visit to the cinema.

When I left school for university, although I had represented Surrey preparatory schools (under 13) and combined public schools (under 19), and had played against FA Youth XIs that included Johnny Haynes, a future England World Cup captain, I found I was totally relearning the game under the guidance, at Cambridge and with the Pegasus Amateur Cup team, of coaches such as Bill Nicholson, Arthur Rowe and Joe Mercer. All men who won the League title. Schoolboy football thought only about what you do, individually, when you have the ball. We knew plenty about ethics, rather less about running off the ball.

Not that the majority of profes-

sional coaching was much better. Danny Blanchflower amusingly wrote on how, with Barnsley and Aston Villa, players were worked physically all week without the ball so that "we would be more hungry for it on Saturday". It just happened that he was, spontaneously, a great player.

Much of English junior football wallowed in ignorance and this was compounded, ironically, by Alf Ramsey winning the World Cup without wingers and with what was proclaimed as work-rate. Genius now had to come dripping in sweat.

For the next 30 years schoolmasters and lesser coaches were intent on winning minor trophies through work-rate and 4-4-2. With street football gone, English boys learnt even less of how to play with the ball.

"Our education system had PE, which was mostly PT," Howard Wilkinson, the FA director of coaching, said. "It was a way of training the whole child, it looked down on winning and taking games seriously, and was predominant in sporting education." Schools believed, perhaps correctly, that wealth through sport was



improper, yet simultaneously were

At long last the philosophy has changed. The blueprint for the guidance and development of children's football skills is to be found at Liverpool's Melwood training ground. Here, Steve Heighway, the club's youth director, teaches the five Cs: Coaching, Caring, Continuity, Contact, Commitment. "I've solved more [personal] problems for kids than you could name," Heighway said. "34 times an Ireland international, said. "Critics have always said that pro clubs are not interested in the whole person, yet that's so far from the truth."

One of Heighway's priorities is to ensure that, of the 135 boys training in eight age groups from under-nine to under-16, none feels alone in the urban sprawl of Liverpool.

"It isn't magic that the continentals have produced more skilful players," Heighway said. "All they've done is apply ingenuity and finance. We've just sat and watched them do it." In Holland, Germany, Italy, Spain.

Liverpool's school of excellence is carefully graded. The younger boys work on nothing but technique, with a ball each. "The age of fun," as Heighway described it. The 11 and 12-year-olds work on more specific techniques, those of 13 and 14 on understanding the relevance within play of the dimensions, especially width, and markings of the pitch; the 15 and 16-year-olds on competitive match play, with tactical and psychological aspects.

"The challenge is to find and encourage the old spontaneity, wizards with the ball at 11," Heighway said. He is still at work: two evenings a week and on Sundays. Half of the 24 coaches are schoolteachers and every six weeks they attend one day at the FA's North West centre of excellence,

supervised by Alex Gibson, one of the FA's five regional directors.

"Very few schoolmasters have experience of coaching nine and ten-year-olds," Heighway said. "It's a multi-faceted job, this, and the key is selecting the coaches and giving them the facilities to work." He cites the schools of excellence at Manchester United and Bury as being outstanding.

It will not be long, he reckoned, before more boys start to come through to the Liverpool first team in the wake of Fowler, McManaman and Matteo, two likely names being Michael Owen and David Thompson. "With the increased access we now have, talented young players spend most of their training time with professionals. Five years ago they were with schools and Sunday leagues, playing on full-size pitches."

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, is convinced that coaching with the lower-level national teams has helped Scotland to remain competitive as a small nation. "It was started by Andy Roxburgh," he

said. "Bruce Rioch, Colin Todd, Brian Kidd, many from England come up here to work on our coaching courses. We're desperately trying to have a sound national structure, and I think we now have. It's not just for the elite, but the grass roots."

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, points to the former widespread reversal of coaching principles: the

search for prestige — winning performance ahead of basic development. "A lot of good guys were giving up their spare time, but forgetting the long-term interest of the kids. It's not what they win, but the standard they achieve. It's not all about competition, though you cannot lose the edge of wanting to win."

The liberation of boys by the schools has helped to reduce the hysteria of fame-seeking parents on the touchline of junior matches. The clubs with centres of excellence now play unscheduled matches in a "conference league", with no league tables or trophies, at six age levels on Sundays. Rationality has arrived.

'At last the philosophy has changed'

Clark looking for run of success to lift body and soul

By Peter Ball

AFTER their impressive victory at Oxford on Sunday, Manchester City go into the FA Cup fourth-round tie with Watford at Maine Road tonight hoping for a season's first — two consecutive wins. If recent history is against them, so too are their stretched physical resources.

They will be forced to make three changes from the team at Oxford, with Wright and Horlock both ineligible, and Brightwell injured. To compound the problems, there were doubts about Kernaghan and Symons yesterday, while Brown and Dickov are suspended.

"The situation is a bit cloudy really, but it may be a good thing," Frank Clark, the City manager, said yesterday. "It

brings you down to earth with a bump. You realise how thin the squad is here. It brings it home how important it is that we expand the size of the squad. One win doesn't change anything in that respect — we know that the squad doesn't have enough depth and quality in it to go where we want to go."

Watford will be awkward opponents, but with a home tie against the very attractive — and very vulnerable — Middlesbrough awaiting the winners, the incentives are huge. Clark's main objective is a return to the Premiership as quickly as possible, and a cup run could be an interruption, but in City's present position, he welcomes it.

"A cup run always lifts a

club," Clark said. "I know sometimes it can become a distraction, but we could do with a distraction like that. The club hasn't had a great deal to celebrate, so a cup run would give everybody a tremendous lift."

The loss of Horlock, who had an excellent debut at Oxford, will be felt, but Clark could take some satisfaction from the signs of improvement since he arrived. They have now gone five games unbeaten and are showing signs that they are now all pulling in the same direction.

"The next trick is not to get complacent," Clark said, with his mournful smile. "There's always a fine dividing line between confidence and complacency. We cannot afford to relax. They cannot think they can just go out and pick up where they left off. We've got to go out against Watford and win the battle all over again. You've got to control the game before you can go and win it."

The confidence, however, is noticeable after the shambles and uncertainties of earlier in the season. "We felt there were a few players underachieving, that what they needed was a bit of encouragement. We've got sides going out with six, seven or eight internationals in them, and we had to remind them of that."

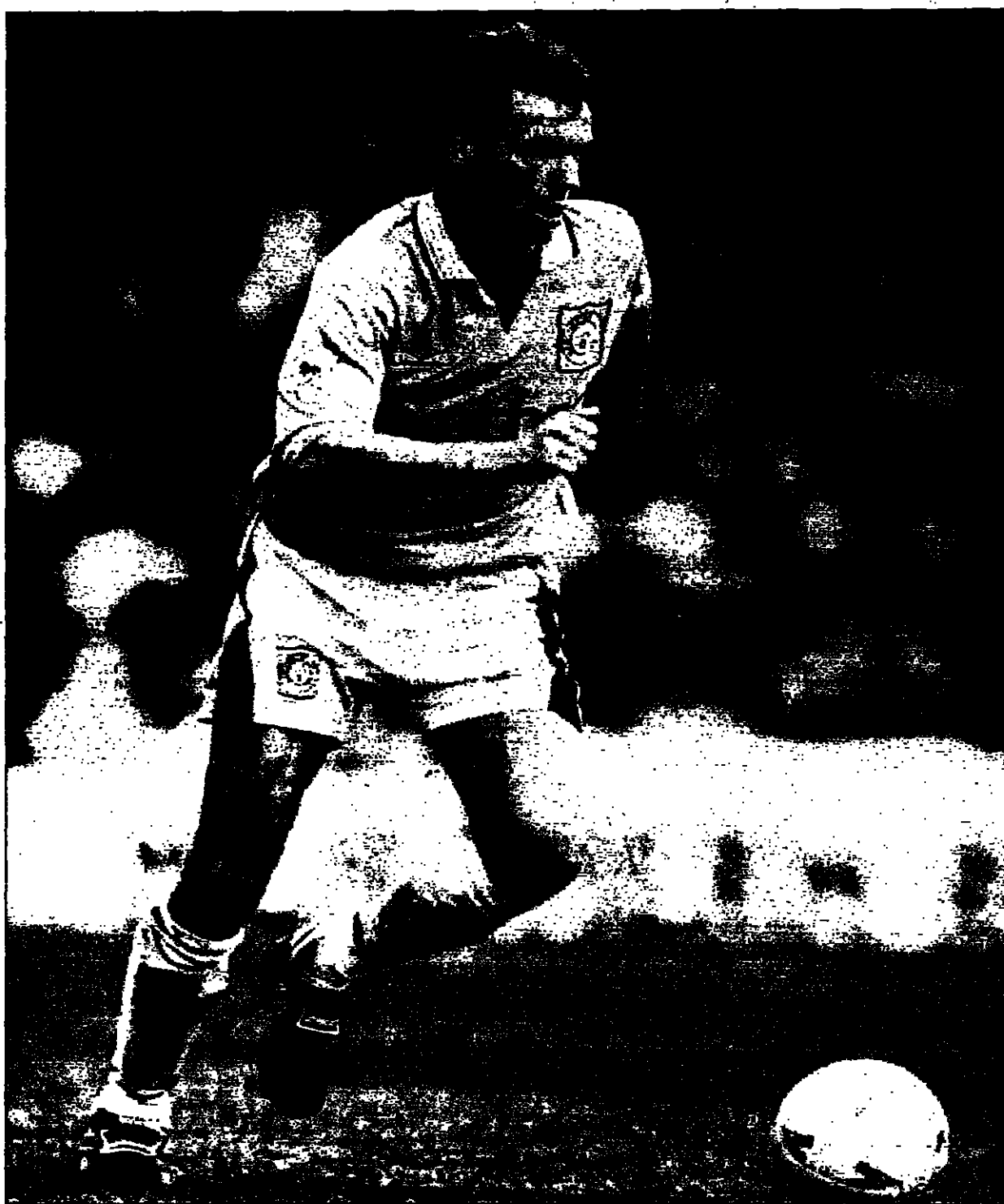
Few have responded better than Uwe Rösler and Georgi Kinkladze. "We know what Georgi is capable of," Clark said. "It was just a question of getting the ball to him in the right areas."

After his uncertainties of the winter, Rösler, too, looks more at ease, last week's vitriolic criticism of him on television by Alan Ball, his former manager, notwithstanding. Clark and Rösler both refused to become involved in a slanging match, but Clark gave Rösler his own vote of confidence when he told the players to ignore the criticism. He told a Football Association disciplinary commission that he had taken the drug in a nightclub on December 7. Two days later, he was selected for random testing after training and, when the result of the test became known, he was suspended by his club.

Tanner, 23, left the hearing without comment but Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said that a medical report stated that the player did not have a drug problem and that he fully recognised the foolishness of his actions.

"Tanner told the commission he had been guilty of senseless and foolish behaviour and learnt a very painful and expensive lesson," Double said. "He apologised profusely to the club, his family and the football world."

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, said the club would stand by the player. "Adam knows that he has done wrong," Burley said. "He has let down himself, his family and the club. He made a bad mistake and has to accept his punishment. It is up to Adam now. He has been given another chance by Ipswich Town and the FA. He must serve his punishment and he knows that his career is in the balance."



Rösler, the City forward, appears to enjoy the confidence of his new manager. Photograph: Phil Cole / Allsport

Supporters attempt to reduce penalty

By Our Sports Staff

IN AN era of player-power, of chairmen in charge and of television calling the tune, some of Teesside's finest yesterday attempted to show that supporters can still have an influential voice in the national game. Stung by the deduction of three league points for the late cancellation of their FA Carling Premiership fixture at Blackburn Rovers on December 21, Middlesbrough supporters appealed to the Football Association to think again about the punishment inflicted on their club.

A delegation delivered 18,500 signed postcards to the FA's headquarters at Lancaster Gate, including one completed by the club's greatest player, Wilf Mannion, that were signed by spectators at last week's FA Cup tie against Huddersfield Town at the Riverside Stadium. Middlesbrough have appealed against the points deduction and, although no date has been set for their case to be heard, the supporters hope that the protest will influence the FA's judgement.

David Roberts, who comments on Middlesbrough matches for a local radio station, said: "If you are going to punish the club without punishing the supporters, the only penalty you can impose is a financial one. You can fine the club £200,000 and that will hit them hard, but you're not punishing the fans at the same time and that's the message we wanted to put across. By taking the points off Middlesbrough, you are effectively giving the other teams a three-point advantage and that's what we feel is unjust."

Middlesbrough have always maintained that they could not fulfil the fixture as they were missing 24 players through injury, illness or suspension.

Roberts added: "We had 24 players — that's two teams of first-team Premiership players — out. If we'd been forced to play the game at Blackburn, it would have been with players people have never heard of before. The Blackburn public would have been saying 'We're paying £20 a ticket and who are we seeing?' Football is an entertainment as well as a sport these days."

Mike Lee, an FA Premier League spokesman, who accepted the postcards, said he sympathised, but added: "I can understand the fans being upset, but at the end of the day a commission of inquiry found the club did not have just cause to cancel the fixture. Docketing the club three points is provided for in the rules, but there is the right of appeal and that will be heard by the FA in due course."

There was better news for Middlesbrough yesterday when they added to the Brazilian contingent at the club by signing Emerson's cousin, Fabio, an 18-month contract. Fabio, a skilful 24-year-old midfielder player, visited Emerson in November and Emerson asked if he could join him in training with the rest of the squad. Bryan Robson, the manager, agreed and Fabio has impressed since, playing one reserve game against Port Vale at the Riverside Stadium. Fabio holds a Portuguese passport, so Middlesbrough have no work permit problems over their latest recruit.

Bournemouth hopeful of hitting fund target

By Russell Kempson

BOURNEMOUTH, the struggling Nationwide League second division club, has raised more than £170,000 towards the £300,000 it needs to secure its future for the rest of the season. It is confident that, when it appears before the Football League on February 13, to present its case, it will be given the go-ahead to continue.

Since the receivers were called in 12 days ago, the club has received a steady flow of donations towards its fighting fund. Supporters attending the 0-0 draw against Blackpool at Dean Court on Saturday gave £12,000 while £4,000 in cheques was received by post yesterday.

"It's not exactly going smoothly but everyone is working flat out," Terry Lovell, the Bournemouth commercial manager, said. "We've got over £170,000 and I'm sure we can reach our target by next week."

Though Bournemouth has debts of £4.4 million, with Lloyd's Bank owed £2.1 million, it is unlikely that it will be thrown out of the League.

If it were, it would create chaos with the second division table and fixture list.

"The club has to present us with assurances that it can fulfil its fixtures," Chris Hull, a League spokesman, said yesterday. "We hope to be able to give them as much support as possible."

Roy Pack, a Bournemouth director, yesterday made an application to the High Court in London to have the receivership annulled. "We could go into administration or set up a voluntary creditors' arrangement," he said. It is thought unlikely that he will succeed.

Though Bournemouth has received financial assistance from many individuals around the county, the seaside town's business sector has still largely ignored its plight. "The companies say they are precluded from doing this by their rules and regulations," Lovell said. One letter the club was not too keen to receive yesterday contained a summons from a local hotel, claiming an alleged outstanding bill of about £1,000.

Tanner gets three-month suspension

ADAM TANNER, the Ipswich Town midfielder player, was banned from football for three months yesterday, after testing positive for cocaine use. He told a Football Association disciplinary commission that he had taken the drug in a nightclub on December 7. Two days later, he was selected for random testing after training and, when the result of the test became known, he was suspended by his club.

Tanner, 23, left the hearing without comment but Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said that a medical report stated that the player did not have a drug problem and that he fully recognised the foolishness of his actions.

"Tanner told the commission he had been guilty of senseless and foolish behaviour and learnt a very painful and expensive lesson," Double said. "He apologised profusely to the club, his family and the football world."

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, said the club would stand by the player. "Adam knows that he has done wrong," Burley said. "He has let down himself, his family and the club. He made a bad mistake and has to accept his punishment. It is up to Adam now. He has been given another chance by Ipswich Town and the FA. He must serve his punishment and he knows that his career is in the balance."

Miklosko sounds warning for struggling West Ham

By Russell Kempson

WEST HAM United's plight near the foot of the FA Carling Premiership could be solved, the club believes, if Harry Redknapp, the manager, is able to complete the signings of the two strikers he has been chasing for weeks. However, Luděk Miklosko, the Czech Republic and West Ham goalkeeper, feels the problem goes much deeper.

Miklosko missed the 2-1 defeat against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday because of a chest cartilage injury and is likely to be sidelined for at least a fortnight. He watched the game at Ewood Park but was not impressed.

"We were an absolute disaster in the first half," he said yesterday. "I have never seen a team as disorganised as we were. If you had watched a bunch of schoolboys play, they would have been better organised than we were."

"We have so many, so many problems and it is not just two new strikers that would sort it out. It is the midfield players as well — they just walk, they jog, but they do not run forward. It is not just about strikers or defenders, it is the whole team."

Though West Ham improved in the second half, Miklosko is still not convinced they can draw clear of the relegation zone. "The only way is to stick together as a team, and to work hard in training, but I'm not sure we can get out

of this. I just don't know." As the players study videotapes this week, in an effort to identify their shortcomings, Redknapp has again been pursuing his targets — Dean Holdsworth, of Wimbledon, and Paul Kitson, of Newcastle United. Redknapp is believed to have offered £3 million for Holdsworth and £2.2 million for Kitson.

Peter Storr, the West Ham managing director, said yesterday: "We've made a bit more progress. Bids have been accepted by clubs and it's now a matter of agreeing with the players concerned."

Some of the figures we have been quoted have been ridiculous. When clubs know the position you're in, they turn the screws on. We will remember that."

David Ginola has hinted he

would relish a return to Paris Saint-Germain after losing his place at Newcastle.

Ginola has made only two starts in five matches under Kenny Dalglish, the new manager, who selected Keith Gillespie ahead of the Frenchman for the home wins over Everton and Leicester City.

Dalglish has stressed he plans to make full use of the squad he inherited from Kevin Keegan, and that every player has a contribution to make. But Ginola has helped fuel speculation that he could become the first leading player to leave St James' Park since Dalglish's arrival.

The 30-year-old winger told the French newspaper, *L'Equipe*: "As far as transfers are concerned, nothing is definite until the forms are signed. But I'm disappointed when I see PSG's results. I've not forgotten the club where I had some magic times."

Ginola, signed by Keegan for £2.5 million in the summer of 1995, was linked with a move to Barcelona last year and, with his future under Dalglish looking uncertain, is clearly unsettled again.

Ricardo Gomes, the PSG manager, is looking for a left-sided forward to allow him to move Leonardo, the Brazilian, into a central role. Michel Denisot, the club president, and television show presenter, has invited Ginola onto one of his shows next week.



Ginola: unsettled

Hamilton banks on Whitley

By Russell Kempson

BRYAN HAMILTON, the Northern Ireland manager, who has named Jeff Whitley, the young Manchester City midfielder player, in the squad for the match against Belgium at Windsor Park next Tuesday, is well aware that he could still lose his promising teenager to England.

Whitley, 17, who was also in the party for the game against Italy in Palermo last month, was born in Zambia and is a British passport holder. He has opted to play for Ireland in honour of his late father, who originated from Belfast.

He did not play against Italy and, even if he appears against Belgium, neither fixture is regarded as a "competitive" match — making him still eligible for the England Under-21 side. Ireland do not

have a "competitive" game until March 29, when they play Portugal in a World Cup qualifying tie.

"I believe England are now showing an interest in Jeff," Hamilton said. "And I know how young fellows can be manipulated. He thought long and hard before reaching his decision to join us and I'm hoping he will stick with it. I'd be surprised if he changed his mind now."

Whitley is likely to face the Belgians, for Michael Hughes and Kevin Horlock will miss the game against Portugal because of suspension and Hamilton will want to try out their possible replacements. "Both Hughes and Horlock are left-sided players, so I'll be looking closely during the match. A Belgium to see

how best I can fill those gaps."

Keith Gillespie, Neil Lennon, Colin Hill, Jim Magilton and Gerard McMahon, who did not travel to Palermo, because of injuries and club commitments, return to the squad. Ian Nolan and Phil Gray, who are recovering from injuries, have been left out while Keith Rowland and Robbie Dennison, substitutes against Italy, have been omitted.

SQUAD: T. Wright (Manchester City), A. Fothergill (Nottingham Forest), R. Gillespie (Newcastle United), G. McMahon (Preston City), N. Worrington (Sheff. Wed.), M. Hughes (West Ham United), J. McCarthy (Port Vale), P. Whitley (Manchester United), J. Whitley (Manchester City), S. Lomas (Manchester City), K. Horlock (Manchester City), J. Magilton (Southampton), S. Morris (Aston Villa), G. Taggart (Bolton Wanderers), J. Quinn (Blackpool), G. O'Driscoll (St. Johnstone), D. Griffin (Aston Villa), M. Lennon (Leicester City), C. Hill (Leicester City), B. Hamilton (Ireland).

When racist jokes turn tail and bite the teller

Are you sitting nakedly? Then I'll begin. No, no, sorry, I've got that the wrong way round. It's whether you're sitting differently that matters. Diffidence, you see, is the key to appreciating 'the naked intimacy of laughter'. Still with me? No, probably not.

Well, how about comedy as the 'expression of our existential disappointment'? Or the seaside pier as 'a structure that separates us from the morality and perceptions of the mainland'? Not well, now we both know why Howard Jacobson called his new series about comedy *Seriously Funny* (Channel 4).

Normally, I like these sort of personal essays, where someone erudite and distinguished holds forth about a subject they hold dear, but — and you knew there were an awful lot of words in last night's opening instalment. As

for the sentence construction — like a drowning man I clutched at prepositions and anything shorter than three syllables in my desperate efforts to keep intellectually afloat.

Now, some of this was my own fault — for not being clever enough — but some of it is Jacobson's. Like many who earn their living through the written word, he had failed to realise that television does not work the same way. A clever play on words or an elaborately crafted paragraph cannot linger on the page, to be pondered over or returned to later. On television there is only now. What's gone is gone forever. In television a train of thought is eight seconds long. Unfortunately Jacobson's — splendid as they were — are a great deal longer.

Which, I suspect, is why sooner rather than later, the subject of set came up. It was like a life-raft, a safe-haven of familiarity amid an

ocean of erudition. Yes, laughter as an aphorism, that was fine. The unsimiling Princess as a metaphor for frigidity — no argument there. Lips and laughter? Yes, Howard, we all know what they're really about. Was that it? Drat, it was.

We were off again — first for a protracted and predictable sneer at our North American cousins, who not only cannot spell humour but take it far too seriously. Then to the Indian Ocean, to make one of those gorgeously expensive links between a Sri Lankan cursing temple and our own temples of the profane, the end of the pier show of Roy Chubby Brown and Bernard Manning's nightclub.

It is discussion with Brown is best glossed over in a morning newspaper, but his analysis of Manning's infamous racist act is not, smugging as it did at the pressionalist contrarian approach beloved of so

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

many newspaper columnists. In time-honoured style, he simply flipped the received wisdom on its head and, at a stroke, secured the instant controversy that all new television series (plus accompanying book) require.

Manning is not a racist, he argued, in the same way Olivier was not Hamlet. A joke is just a dramatic form, which by virtue of

being a joke 'turns on its tail and bites its own teller'. Surveying the white and mainly male audience, Jacobson confidently announced that 'every member of the congregation is practised in the meaning of the service, they understand that there is structure and artifice at work'. And there was I thinking they were just there because they liked jokes about 'niggers and coons'. Told you, I wasn't clever enough.

With ethnic stereotyping to the fore, Jacobson no doubt approved of last night's episode of *The Detectives* (BBC1). So did I, which I know makes me a hypocrite and an intellectual failure, but what can you do? Complete with a lot of Red Indian jokes (which really wouldn't have worked as Native American jokes), this was unreservedly funny and deeply intelligent television.

We had the old 'how' gag: a variation on 'you mind, I smoke?'

and a very silly line about why Louis (Jasper Carrott) and Briggs (Robert Powell) couldn't just post the cursed carving of the Great Manitou back to the Comanches: 'If we lost it, they might Sioux.'

Instead it was stolen, allowing the far from intrepid pair to rush round the local underworld looking for it, accompanied by the prophetic Chief Gray Wolf (Anthony Valentine) or 'Mystic Meg' with a scalping knife as Louis called him. Most fun, though, was seeing whether Valentine could keep a straight face under his feather head-dress. It was touch and go during the final scene, but he just about managed it.

Finally, let us turn to *Peak Practice* (ITV), where once again it was the end of an era and once again a new set of opening titles will be needed for next week. Simon Shepherd, aka Dr Will

Preston, was leaving, taking his new wife and his new daughter with him. There was a new name already on his door (pause for a long, wistful close-up) and there was a new doctor already doing his coffee-cup acting (pause for a long, wistful close-up).

'Will you miss it... Cardale?' asked a concerned nurse. There was a long, wistful... Well, you know the form by now. Eventually, the moment could be postponed no longer. 'Goodbye,' he whispered and drove off in his Range Rover, leaving the new trio of doctors at the Beeches to get on with explaining how the modern health service works. It's become rather like *The Archers*, when they explain farming to each other, a puzzled Dr Erica. 'Shifting patients from one health authority to another,' explains a helpful consultant. Life after Will is clearly going to be exactly the same again.

BBC1	BBC2
6.00am Business Breakfast (50105)	6.00am Open University: The Geometry of Patterns (5024037) 6.25 Pyramids, Plato and Football (5036872) 6.50 Symmetry Counts (5030318) 7.15 News (7)
7.00am Breakfast News Extra (7) (5006879)	7.15 News (7) (5006879)
9.20am All Over the Shop (1790018)	9.20am All Over the Shop (1790018)
9.45am Kinky (5058582)	9.45am Kinky (5058582)
10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (50565)	10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (50565)
11.00am News (7) (5054785)	11.00am News (7) (5054785)
11.05am The Really Useful Show (5197958)	11.05am The Really Useful Show (5197958)
11.45am Sniffles the People (5009899)	11.45am Sniffles the People (5009899)
12.00am News (7) Regional News and weather (5053211)	12.00am News (7) Regional News and weather (5053211)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5229679)	12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5229679)
12.30pm Going for a Song (7503414)	12.30pm Going for a Song (7503414)
12.55pm The Weather Show (3461038)	12.55pm The Weather Show (3461038)
1.00pm One O'Clock News (7) (57850)	1.00pm One O'Clock News (7) (57850)
1.30pm Regional News (5054414)	1.30pm Regional News (5054414)
1.40pm Neighbours (7) (2113834)	1.40pm Neighbours (7) (2113834)
2.05pm Snooker: The Masters Live coverage from Wembley Conference Centre (5026178)	2.05pm Snooker: The Masters Live coverage from Wembley Conference Centre (5026178)
3.30pm Playdays (1922124) 3.50pm Chucklevision (1902300) 4.10pm The Real Adventure of Jonny Quest (5026989) 4.35pm The Wild Horse (5010252)	3.30pm Playdays (1922124) 3.50pm Chucklevision (1902300) 4.10pm The Real Adventure of Jonny Quest (5026989) 4.35pm The Wild Horse (5010252)
5.00pm Newsworld (7) (7477380)	5.00pm Newsworld (7) (7477380)
5.10pm Blue Peter (7) (1787834)	5.10pm Blue Peter (7) (1787834)
5.35pm Neighbours (7) (2113834)	5.35pm Neighbours (7) (2113834)
6.30pm Regional News (768)	6.30pm Regional News (768)
7.00pm Noel's Telly Years: Kim Wilde's father, Mary, and boxer Henry Cooper recall 1965, the year they broke into the big time in Britain (5056)	7.00pm Noel's Telly Years: Kim Wilde's father, Mary, and boxer Henry Cooper recall 1965, the year they broke into the big time in Britain (5056)
7.30pm Tomorrow's World: Howard Stabfield and Vickyne Perry present a special report from Bangkok, where they meet the builder of the world's first hybrid electric boat. Plus: how technology is helping the city's war against crocodile poachers; and turning a seven kilogram topaz into a golden jubilee present for the ruler of Thailand (7) (505)	7.30pm Tomorrow's World: Howard Stabfield and Vickyne Perry present a special report from Bangkok, where they meet the builder of the world's first hybrid electric boat. Plus: how technology is helping the city's war against crocodile poachers; and turning a seven kilogram topaz into a golden jubilee present for the ruler of Thailand (7) (505)
8.00pm National Lottery Live: Carol Smilla hosts the first 'midweek-draw' game. Plus: how charities have benefited from the lottery and winners reveal how they have invested their cash (5018)	8.00pm National Lottery Live: Carol Smilla hosts the first 'midweek-draw' game. Plus: how charities have benefited from the lottery and winners reveal how they have invested their cash (5018)
8.30pm Dad's Army: Selection Box A number of celebrities pick their favourite clips from the long-running comedy series (7) (7853)	8.30pm Dad's Army: Selection Box A number of celebrities pick their favourite clips from the long-running comedy series (7) (7853)
9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (7) Followed by Regional News and weather (3495)	9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (7) Followed by Regional News and weather (3495)
9.29pm National Lottery Update (549872)	9.29pm National Lottery Update (549872)
9.30pm Common as Muck (7) Party reaches the end of his tether (50230)	9.30pm Common as Muck (7) Party reaches the end of his tether (50230)
10.30pm Breaking the Code: Derek Jacobson stars as Alan Turing, the mathematical genius who broke the Germans' Enigma code and changed the course of the Second World War, but whose homosexuality prevented him from becoming a national hero (50582)	10.30pm Breaking the Code: Derek Jacobson stars as Alan Turing, the mathematical genius who broke the Germans' Enigma code and changed the course of the Second World War, but whose homosexuality prevented him from becoming a national hero (50582)
12.00pm FILM: Journey into Darkness: The Bruce Curtis Story (1991) With Steve Reynolds and Janet Woodcut. The friend of a boy who murders his abusive stepfather is incriminated in the dreadful events. Directed by Graeme Campbell (50583)	12.00pm FILM: Journey into Darkness: The Bruce Curtis Story (1991) With Steve Reynolds and Janet Woodcut. The friend of a boy who murders his abusive stepfather is incriminated in the dreadful events. Directed by Graeme Campbell (50583)
1.30pm Weather (2427325)	1.30pm Weather (2427325)

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RACING 39
Superbet on the cards with Tote and Ladbrokes

SPORT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5 1997

ATHLETICS 41
Champion running scared on the road to riches



EXTRA
16
PAGES

Italy coach adopts no-risk policy

Maldini keeps faith with familiar faces

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AFTER so much hot air blowing from Lancaster Gate through the corridors of Parliament concerning the World Cup of 2006, England must face reality. Italy are coming to Wembley next Wednesday and England dare not lose if they are to qualify for a World Cup that will definitely take place in France next year. Yesterday, Cesare Maldini, Italy's new coach, named his 21-man squad for the match.

It includes everyone it should, among them Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo, of Chelsea, who should start the game, and Fabrizio Ravanelli, of Middlesbrough, who will probably be a substitute.

It is no surprise that Chelsea's other forward, Gianluca Vialli, at the moment a reserve at Stamford Bridge, has not been recalled after so long out of the Italian equation. Nor, though his form is resurgent, is Roberto Baggio included, and neither is Roberto Mancini, of Sampdoria.

Coach Maldini may be long in the tooth, he may see no reason to select players other than those who were in the last squads of Arrigo Sacchi, but Maldini Sr will revert to tight marking, to a defence built around a sweeper and to traditional Italian values of patience, laced, in the forward positions, with flair.

His own son, Paolo, recovering from gastric flu after Milan's defeat by Sampdoria on Sunday, may be trying to mislead England when he says that he will sacrifice his forward momentum to try to obliterate the muscle of Alan Shearer. Italians expect Maldini to start on the left of defence, as usual.

However, Italy, like England, must wait to begin their serious training after mid-week club commitments. The FA Cup replays here are an

ITALY SQUAD

A. Peruzzi (Juventus), F. Toldo (Fiorentina), C. Ferrara (Juventus), A. Costacurta (AC Milan), A. Nesta (Lazio), F. Cannavaro (Parma), P. Maldini (AC Milan), S. Tre (Internazionale), A. Benarrivo (Parma), C. Pancucci (Pescara), A. B. Livi (Juventus), R. Di Matteo (Chelsea), D. Albertini (AC Milan), D. Baggio (Parma), D. Fuser (Lazio), A. Carbone (AC Roma), P. Cossignani (Lazio), F. Ravanelli (Middlesbrough), G. Zola (Chelsea), A. Del Piero (Juventus), E. Chessa (Parma).

the spurious European Super Cup against Paris Saint-Germain — despite the fact that Juventus overwhelmed the Parisians 6-1 two weeks ago.

England have little to do but wait and worry. Robert Lee, the Newcastle United midfielder, has reported sick before the first training session, suffering from a sore groin that has left him barely able to walk after the dramatic game against Leicester City on



Di Matteo: starting role

Sunday. Italy, by contrast, wonder whom to leave out. Ravanelli, who would in ordinary circumstances be a certainty to start, is likely to be second choice because Pierluigi Casiraghi, the powerful Lazio striker, has a rapport up front with Zola. As a pair, they led Italy during arguably the finest hour of the European championship.

In terms of technique, interchanging movement and swiftness when Italy beat Russia 2-1 at Anfield, the partnership of Casiraghi and Zola was irreplaceable. Del Piero, substituted in that game, has since come back to form with Juventus, yet remains, like Ravanelli, a probable substitute this time.

Whatever happens early at Wembley, no Italian expects Maldini to tinker irrationally with the team as his predecessor, Sacchi, did at Euro 96. The Italians, this time, know what is expected and what they are doing.

They live, after all, in a most unforgiving league. Yesterday Massimo Moratti, the president of Internazionale, frightened his English coach, Roy Hodgson, once again. Moratti, having extended Hodgson's contract until 1999 after a UEFA Cup win in November, said yesterday: "You couldn't say our last match against Perugia was entertaining. We've got the players, but we need to improve the style. We've got to train more, show more determination. Hodgson is conscientious, but the results are not coming; therefore we'll have to see at the end of the season."

Hodgson, who could have joined Blackburn Rovers this summer, has to prove himself again to the demanding Italians. And England, after all the rhetoric about finding Germans laying down towels and claiming the beach ahead of them, need to concentrate fully to beat Italy at Wembley. Qualifying is the thing.

Villa float, page 25



Lennie Smith, the former WBC light-welterweight champion, casts an admiring glance at Lewis as the Briton trains in Las Vegas yesterday

Lewis prepares for stormy welcome

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THEY promise to be the most significant six minutes of Lennox Lewis's life, minutes that could make or break his career, that could be the difference between winning a fortune and watching one slip from his grasp. They will, Emanuel Steward believes, mark the Briton's arrival among the greatest heavyweights boxing has known. Lewis's task in those minutes on Friday night is simple. He has to survive the early rounds of his World Boxing Council heavyweight championship contest with Oliver McCall, see out the initial fury that the American is sure to bring with him to the ring, and go on to regain the title that he lost to McCall in 1994. Then, at Wembley, Lewis

failed and was beaten inside two rounds by a boxer schooled by Steward. Now, the great trainer has swapped Steward and believes he has backed another winner, but will not be sure until after the opening exchanges at the Las Vegas Hilton.

"In the first part of the fight, Lennox will be tentative," Steward said yesterday. "When you go back in with someone who's knocked you out, the subconscious will make you that way. After two rounds, you'll see the aggression come in and Lennox will totally outclass him."

"Lennox has got the best all-round talent of any heavyweight that's ever been in boxing, but it's never been developed before, like a gold shaft that hasn't been mined. He's been too conservative, too

laid-back, too analytical. Lennox is looking very good now." Lewis certainly looked superb as Steward oversaw his training in Johnny Tocco's gym in Las Vegas. Although weighing almost 18 stone, Lewis has more definition to his features than before his last fight, a close call against Ray Mercer in May. The emphasis has been on balance and honing Lewis's left hook. Steward is happy with the results and so is the man himself, enough to put his defeat by McCall down to experience.

"It depends on how you lose," Lewis said. "I kind of helped the situation on that night. If Oliver McCall thinks he can beat me again, he's greatly mistaken. I don't want to say I'll knock him out in seven rounds or anything like

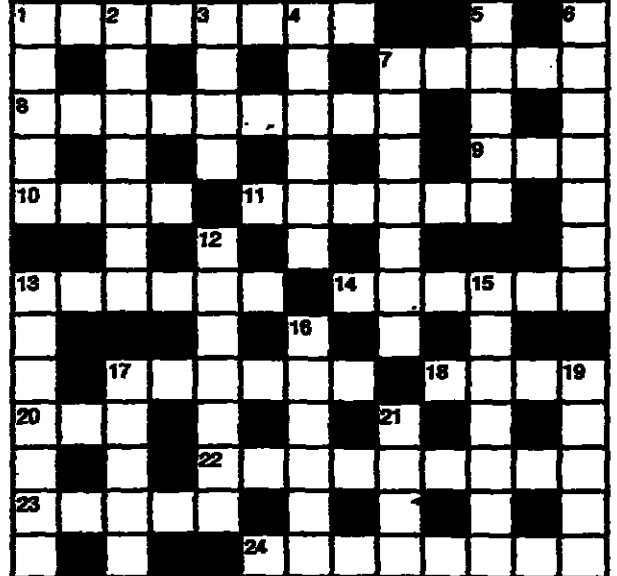
that. If the opportunity presents itself, I'll take it."

Victory should put Lewis in line for a meeting with the World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, Evander Holyfield, or Mike Tyson, who met on May 3. Holyfield beat Tyson last year to win the WBA crown. Their rematch is likely to be the most lucrative contest ever, with Holyfield realising as much as £30 million. It is the sort of money that is beyond the ambitions of Steve Collins, the Irishman who holds the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight championship, but nonetheless he is looking ahead to richer rewards. He expects to dismiss the challenge of Frederic Sellier, of France, at the London Arena

on Saturday night and go on to challenge the unbeaten American, Roy Jones. "The only person who can beat me is me — if I don't prepare properly. That will not happen," Collins said yesterday. "I am still looking for the big names."

So too is Billy Hardy, the Sunderland featherweight. Well, one big name anyway — Naseem Hamed. If Hamed, the WBO champion, beats Tom Johnson, the International Boxing Federation champion, at the London Arena on Saturday, Hardy, the No.1 contender for the WBO title, can expect a purse of £250,000 to challenge him. Hardy did his cause no harm on Monday night when he retained his European championship with a points win over Steve Robinson, of Cardiff.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1009

- ACROSS**
1 Tempest magician (8)
2 Lilies (5)
3 Width between surfaces (9)
4 Expression of disgust (3)
5 Head growth (4)
6 Forcibly apply (6)
7 Hat, car engine cover (6)
8 Having talent (6)
9 Distinct smell; enjoy this (6)
10 Small mountain (4)
11 Captive cricket practice (3)
12 One successful with women (6,3)
13 Fine, attractive (esp. baby) healthy (5)
14 (Excuse) cease to convince (4,4)
- DOWN**
1 Small piece, plot (5)
2 Point of view (7)
3 Fish; weapon (Northern) (8,4)
4 Fr. coronation city (6)
5 Excessive (5)
6 Seem able to see (7)
7 Ex-Soviet republic, cap. of (7)
8 With weight (7)
9 Eventually (2,3,2)
10 Great success (7)
11 Come follow the 13 ac of 23 — (Scott) (6)
12 Unfeeling hard (5)
13 Undergoing (5)
14 Look closely (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1008
ACROSS: 1 Fiji 3 In spades 9 Costa 10 Genesis 11 Disable 12 Norm 14 Wisdom 16 Middle 18 Bolt 19 Ascetic 22 Eminent 23 Cobra 24 Mismother 25 Pest
DOWN: 1 Face down 2 Just So Stories 4 Nugget 5 Penance 6 Discreditable 7 So-so 8 Lamb 13 Merchant 15 On the go 17 Manlike 20 Cook 21 Team

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1004
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 4 Prong 7 Nonsense 8 Fall 9 Pinetree 10 Klaxon 13 Flare 14 Aerial 15 Behest 16 Courtesy 19 Room 20 Raincoat 21 Liege
DOWN: 1 Entail 2 Infuse 3 Weapon 4 Perceive 5 Ordinance 6 Guzzle 11 Adequate 12 Overture 14 Jackal 15 Beyond 16 Harlow 17 Snooty
1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is R Copnall, Ashurst, Surrey.
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is M Robinson, Glenholme Park, Belfast.
All flights subject to availability.

FA criticised over World Cup bid

By JOHN GOODBODY

GERMAN officials yesterday criticised the Football Association for failing to consult them before launching a rival European application to stage the 2006 World Cup. As the dispute over the bidding process continued to simmer, Dutch authorities confirmed the view held by the four British associations that UEFA, the European governing body for the sport, had not formed its member countries that it was backing Germany

to host the 32-nation tournament.

Germany announced in 1993 that it would be bidding, seven years before the vote to be taken by FIFA, the world governing body. However, it was not until July 1, 1996, the day after the successful completion of the European championship staged in England, that the FA publicly announced that it would also be applying.

Wolfgang Niersbach, the spokesman for the German Football Federation, said:

"You have to ask the question whether a country should go to a partner and tell them rather than let them be informed through the media."

"It is normal that countries should talk to each other. I told David Davies [the FA director of public relations] that we are not happy that things started like this."

There has been no formal voting on which country UEFA should back for the World Cup in 2006. Monique Kessels, a spokeswoman for the Dutch Football Federation, said: "We

have checked through all our official correspondence for the past few months and found no mention of it anywhere. It could, of course, have been told informally to one or other of our board members but, as far as we know, this was not the case."

She did not think that UEFA had been secretive "but it was certainly clumsy", she said. "We are not angry about it. We feel it is really a matter for UEFA and FIFA and the countries bidding for the World Cup."

Batsmen look to hits for runs

By SIMON WILDE

ANYONE offended by the recent assertion from Noel Gallagher, of the rock group Oasis, that using social drugs equates with taking a cup of tea can now rest at ease. Retribution is at hand.

His group, the most successful in Britain for years, has been hijacked into an alliance with a slightly less glamorous and productive outfit, and one that could do serious damage to their image: the England cricket team.

Asked by the New Zealand cricket board to choose a piece of music to inspire them as they walk out to bat in the one-day international series later this month, five of the 16 England players plumped for Oasis songs. Any increase in sales generated by the regular airings the band receives is likely to be offset by the unfortunate association with a team whose years of failure have left it struggling to find a new sponsor.

Many Oasis devotees may not be old enough to remember a time when England held the Ashes, and fewer still were

born the last time a series was won against West Indies. That was 28 years ago — as Alec Stewart is obviously aware, judging by his choice of *Summer of '69*, by Bryan Adams.

The five self-proclaimed Oasis fans are Michael Atherton and Nick Knight, who both chose *Some Might Say* — the surest indication yet that they will open the innings together in the one-day matches — John Crawley, Chris Silverwood and Phil Tufnell, whose selection of *Cigarettes and Alcohol* may have more to do with his own preferred off-field recreations.

But anyone who has closely followed England's tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand knows the enthusiasm for Oasis spreads still wider. The team bus shakes to their sound most days and the four guitarists in the party — Wayne Morrison, the physiotherapist and musical cheerleader, Andrew Caddick, Alan Mullally and Crawley — have given countless, if variable, renditions of *Wonderwall* around hotels and airports.

The New Zealand authorities are hoping the innovation will appeal to spectators, as has been the case in Australia and South Africa. However, if

England's wickets fall as swiftly as they did in Zimbabwe, the crowd's capacity for music may be stretched to its limit, to say nothing of the disc jockey's sleight of hand.

Most of the music chosen by the two teams is contemporary, the only England players to stray from mainstream being Jack Russell, who could not resist picking *How Much is That Doggy in the Window?* and Robert Croft, whose Welsh roots and reputation as the team's best vocalist probably obliged him to choose *Delilah*, by Tom Jones.

While cricket's purists may scoff at such diversions, it should be noted that the England and Wales Cricket Board is considering visual and audio entertainment during the intervals of one-day matches this summer. "We are not yet looking at players' signature tunes but let us wait and see what happens in New Zealand," an ECB spokesman said yesterday. "These things need consideration if they add to the day's enjoyment."

Simon Barnes, page 42
Captain's crossroads, page 42

ENGLAND COMPILATION

- Michael Atherton and Nick Knight — *Some Might Say* (Oasis)
Nasser Hussain — *Zombie* (The Cranberries)
Graham Thorpe — *Shrimp Thing* (The Gals)
Alec Stewart — *Summer of '69* (Bryan Adams)
John Crawley — *Wonderwall* (Oasis)
Chris Silverwood — *How Much is That Doggy in the Window?* (Lisa Ross)
Robert Croft — *Delilah* (Tom Jones)
Darren Gough — *Walking on Sunshine* (Kathrina and the Waves)
Romie Harr — *Two Tribes* (Frankie Goes to Hollywood)
Andy Caddick — *I Feel Good* (James Brown)
Phil Tufnell — *Cigarettes and Alcohol* (Dance)
Alan Mullally — *Any' Nothing but the Best Thing* (Marcella Detroit and Elton John)
Craig White — *Son of a Gun* (DJ)
Phil Tufnell — *Cigarettes and Alcohol* (Dance)

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A home is where the heart is

Fallen for the house of your dreams?

Rachel Kelly on buying for the besotted

Every agent has a romantic tale to tell, and never more so than a week before Valentine's Day. When people buy houses, their hearts often rule their heads.

There was the newly-wed husband, besotted with his wife who had £500,000 to spend through the buying agents Property Vision on a big country house. His spouse fell for something a little larger, price tag a million. Mr Newly-Wed signed on the dotted, very expensive line.

Or the case recalled by Friend & Falck's Chelsea office of a man selling a house on the Phillimore estate in Kensington, West London, who was offered a cool million over the asking price. At the eleventh hour, he withdrew the house from the market as he couldn't bear to sell.

Or the buyers who paid £84,000 for a house valued at a mere £33,000 by John D. Wood, such was their passion for the leafy haven of a back garden that had been created by an order of Anglican nuns.

New research by Savills shows that in London, 11 per cent of buyers move not because they need to, but simply because they've fallen hook, line and mortar for a house.

A further 10 per cent pay 100 per cent of the asking price, and another 10 per cent pay more than the asking price.

Richard Dorell, of Savills, says: "People haven't forgotten the recession, even though the market has significantly recovered. The memory means that buyers have become rather cynical about the idea that houses are simply money-making machines. Instead, the pendulum has swung back towards people seeing houses as homes and the very word is laced with emotion."

Patrick Bailey of Strutt & Parker agrees. "After falling in love with your husband or wife, there is nothing more emotive than falling for a house. People do get irrational."

"I think buying is so emotive



John and Vivienne Webb longingly eyed Lynsted Court for nine years before buying the Grade I listed Tudor house at auction. "When we got back to the office we suddenly thought, what have we done?"

and feelings run so high because when you buy a house you are opening a new chapter in your life," says Willie Gething from Property Vision. "When you sell, you are closing one. That's why we as buying agents get crates of champagne and estate agents seldom get much thanks."

People seem to get most emotional about houses redolent of history or those set by water. "Or a house reminds a buyer of a happy childhood or holiday," says Andrew Dewar of Curchods agents in Surrey. Atty Bear-Roberts of Knight Frank thinks it may be because running water soothes buyers and reminds them of being back in the womb. And those

who own historic houses are charmed by being custodians of the nation's heritage; they often feel they are buying not simply for themselves but for their children and grandchildren.

Hear the words of Graham Bond, who fell for a Georgian house in Turnham Green on sale through Foxtons. "As I stood under the Victorian monkey puzzle tree, I could imagine the bells of the church tolling Sunday mass as the Georgian family strolled out of the door in their Sunday best."

Some even fall in love with a house's seller. Sam Olive, 48,

was a confirmed bachelor when he decided to sell his 100 acre Upper Eldon pig farm near Stockbridge in Hampshire through Cluttons. A woman arrived to view the house one wet morning. "We sat down and started talking, and talked and talked, and I must confess that by 3 o'clock that afternoon I had totally forgotten why I had come," recalls Geraldine Woods. Three months later, seller and buyer were wed.

Agents talk of the "want value" of a house. "The market value is the true value of the fabric of the building, its grounds, and its situation," says Paul Greenwood from Stacks Relocation. "The want

value is the price someone is prepared to pay extra to the true value for personal reasons."

The best advice for consumers, Mr Greenwood says, is to at least be aware of the extra you are paying. "Money can seem more like Monopoly notes when buying property than at any other time. Make sure your love affair is not just a one-week stand."

And never forget the tale of the Dutch tycoon who fell for a Scottish sporting estate as a gesture of Valentine's Day love for his wife. They moved in, only to be greeted by persistent Highlands rain. Two weeks later, the house was back on the market.

Lynsted Court, five miles from Faversham in Kent is the kind of Grade I listed Hall that sends buyers' pulses racing. There is history aplenty, and enough beamed bedrooms and flagstone floors to fulfil the needs of any Hollywood location manager.

John and Vivienne Webb had eyed the house longingly. "We have lived in the village of Lynsted for 16 years and could see Lynsted Court from our bedroom window. We said we would love to live there but thought it was out of our league," says Mr Webb.

The Webbs appreciated the house's rich past. Built in the 15th century and originally known as Swards, Lynsted Court was once owned by Sir Drue Drury, an usher of Elizabeth I's Privy Chamber. He is said to have ridden from Lynsted to Fotheringhay with the warrant of execution for Mary Queen of Scots. In the 19th century it was

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

converted into three cottages. The last Tsar's cousins, Prince Andrew and Princess Alice of Russia, lived there during the Second World War.

In 1990 the house and its then owners had both fallen on hard times, and it was put up for sale at auction. "We went along rather half-heartedly with everyone else from the village, and didn't really intend to bid for it," says Mr Webb. But the bidding started low and they bought the house. They then sold their business to spend the next 15 months restoring the house to its former glory, he says.

Now the Webbs are reluctantly putting the house up for sale for £525,000 through Strutt & Parker, to be able to travel more freely.



Jemma and Jonathan Hewlett outside the house they knew instantly was 'theirs'

When Jonathan Hewlett first saw his future house in the Oxfordshire village of Britwell Salome he was reminded of his childhood home. "I walked into an enchanting hall with a big inglenook fireplace, and I could instantly imagine us all living there. I raced home to my wife Jemma and the next day we went with our two-year-old son Archie to have another look."

Mrs Hewlett recalls: "The house had masses of character, and I fell in love with the garden — especially having seen hundreds of London backyards. By the time we left I had worked out which room we would use as which, and had curtains at the windows. It became our new home straight away."

But the Hewletts were outbid on the £275,000 house, being sold by Savills in Henley. "We were devastated," says Jonathan, himself an estate agent. "Somebody else would be living in 'our' house. Then the first sale fell through and we were given two days to exchange, and two weeks to complete, at close to the asking price. The house became ours on our fifth wedding anniversary. "We may have paid slightly over the odds, and we plan to spend £75,000 on renovation, but to us the house is worth it, and, as I tell my clients, that is the only real test of value."



Patrick and Minnie Shaw Stewart's cottages — "a time capsule"

PATRICK and Minnie Shaw Stewart fell for 2 and 3 Marsh Cottages, six miles from Newbury, Berkshire, which were described in Knight Frank's brochure as "a pair of cottages in need of complete renovation."

"The cottages were a time capsule, absolutely charming and unchanged," Mr Shaw Stewart recalls. "We bought them for a bit less than the £60,000 asking price, and since have spent £12,000 on the thatch and roof, and a further £5,000 on repairs."

"We have been desperate not to destroy the cottages' very special atmosphere — the fact that they had remained unchanged for so many years. So we have avoided using

modern materials, or putting in modern, cheaper, designs. We are not academic purists, who want everything to be 200 years old. We are quite happy to use materials and designs that the previous owner might have used in, say, the 1920s, but finding them and doing the work properly obviously takes more time. We've been at it for the last two years."

"All building materials have had to be carried across the river along our path. But the work, which we are still doing, is worth it."



Bika Reed: "A home is more than bricks and mortar. It's like parting with a dear friend"

Bika Reed is a lady who can't bear to sell her Battersea home. She first put it on the market in 1992 through local agents Douglas & Gordon and has never wanted for offers. Five years on, only now is she walking away from the front door for the last time.

"It's taken me that long to come to terms with the idea. A home is more than bricks and mortar," says Mrs Reed, an author of several books on ancient Egypt who has lived in the house for 32 years.

"It's like parting with a dear friend. After living somewhere for more than 30 years, it becomes a reflection of the people who live there, of their emotions and personalities. Naturally it is filled with memories."

Each time the agents found a buyer, Mrs Reed lost her nerve and took the house off the market for all that she wished to sell to release some capital for her son. Part of her affection

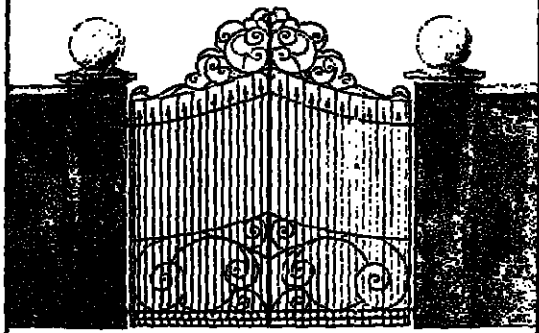
stemmed from all the work she had done on it. She spent six long years restoring the house room by room.

"When I bought the house I had a ten-month-old baby. Being young, I thought doing up a virtually derelict home while living in it with a young child would be simple. But of course, I had no idea of what was involved."

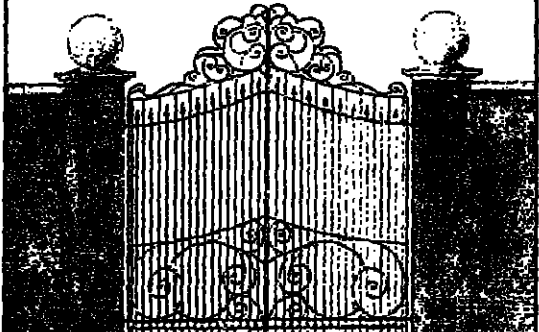
Over the past five years, Ivor Dickinson, of Douglas & Gordon, has lent a sympathetic ear: "Everyone in the office grew very fond of her and it was very personal for us, too."

Mrs Reed added: "My relationship with the house has been like that of a snail and its shell. But you must move on and transfer your emotions. I am off, finally, to a new house in Clapham."

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Children can make or break a sale, as Amanda Loose discovers



Youth with a view: David Crawford, 13, relaxes in his room at his new home. He vetoed his parents' first choice of house because he disliked the size of his future bedroom and the garden.

Sellers bow to the power of youth

After viewing 30 houses, Ian and Elaine Crawford have finally found one which suits their whole family. "We had to move from Cardiff to Solihull, because my husband was relocated last month. Previously, we found a house in a good location, with a nice garden and easy access to schools and shops," Mrs Crawford says.

Their children thought otherwise. "We took David, 13, and our 19-year-old daughter Michelle to see the house, and soon realised that we would have to rethink. David didn't like the small bedroom or garden, and felt that it was too close to a main road which would make it difficult for him to play outside. We realised that we would have to take David with us to future viewings," she says.

The scenario is more common than one might think, says the developer Beazer Homes. Over 70 per cent of children have fixed opinions about where they live, the builders say. Agents tell of temper tantrums over small bedrooms and tiny gardens, while one recalls being bitten

by a young horror. Children as young as six have a say in the house their parents buy, according to a new survey by General Accident Property Services.

"We knew that children had a big part to play in which house a family chooses, but it's quite remarkable just how much influence they actually have," says Keith Burns, of General Accident Property Services.

Huw Warren, of Cluttons, agrees. "It never ceases to amaze us just how many parents tell us that they must bring their children on all viewings. Children have a strong influence over their parents' decision, to the point that it can make or break a deal. So often we have been convinced that the parents liked the house so much that they were on the verge of putting in an offer, only to find that they declined because their son or daughter didn't like their future bedroom."

Most agents have a healthy respect for their younger clients. Rupert Bradstock of the buying agents Property Vision says: "If you know children will be coming with their parents, make an effort with them and give them a good time. One vendor realised the importance of winning over the children and provided mini motor bikes to ride in the paddock. Needless to say, they had a great time and the sale went ahead."

"There is no doubt that the children's approval matters. In fact I would go so far as to say their approval is one of the top five must-haves during the decision-making process."

"I have shown clients around fabulous £3 million estates on two occasions. In each case they wanted to come back with their children before committing themselves. On one occasion, someone withdrew their offer, because the child was in a filthy mood and didn't like the house."

So what if children did sign along the bottom line? Price would be an irrelevance, says Philip Gossage of John D. Wood. Their concerns are chiefly to do with paddocks, bedrooms and whether their friends live nearby.

Miranda Harris, 10, liked a house she saw in Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, because the bedrooms were large enough for her pet iguana which, although only 22in now, could grow to 6ft. Most children want a large bedroom, says General Accident, along with privacy and a separate playroom or television room so they can have friends to stay. Private bathrooms or, at the very least, their own vanity units are essential.

Girls' wants range from a lock on their bedroom door to the more luxurious, with many saying swimming pools and sunbed rooms are a must-have. Although boys are more modest in their demands, they are still exacting. Gardens large enough to play sports in are the order of the day, says General Accident.

Location is key. Children are keen to stay in the same area, close to friends and their school. As one mother said ruefully: "Some children can be very objectionable at cer-



Ian and Elaine Crawford with David at the house they chose.

tain ages, as they put down roots... "But it can all work out well. After a divorce late last year, Gill Rastrick found a house she liked near to family and friends in Boston Spa, West Yorkshire.

"I had looked at ten houses in the area, but wouldn't have gone ahead with the purchase of the one I chose if my 14-year-old son Joe hadn't liked it," she says.

"But while I liked the house because it was in the right price range, had enough space and was close to the village, Joe loved the garden room which we have made into a private room for him, for his computer, stereo system and so on. It really mattered that he loved the house as well."

SHAKERS MOVERS

A home from home for the screen stars

● MORE proof that Hollywood stars choose Notting Hill when they come to London.

After Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman rented in Holland Park comes news that Madonna chose to rent the pad of Lord Hindlip, the chairman of Christie's, in Campden Hill Road when she hit town recently. The house of the former Charles Allsopp with its separate drive-in, was up for rent for £5,000 a week. It has since been sold to John Beckwith, millionaire property developer and uncle of wild child Tamara who has been hailed as the latest "It" girl.



Madonna chose to rent in West London.

● BRUCE FORSYTH has just bought a two bedroom Chelsea flat in the Victorian mansion block, Cadogan Court, near Sloane Square, for close to its £500,000 asking price from agents Aylesford. The veteran entertainer's third floor flat has a drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, master bedroom and the second bedroom both with ensuite bathrooms, where he will live with his wife, Wilhelmina.



A sporting estate appeals to Ian Botham.

● ROSS KEMP, who plays Grant Mitchell in Eastenders, and is engaged to Rebekah Wade, the deputy editor of the News of the World, is looking for a four bedroom house in Hampstead or Highgate.

● VIRGINIA WADE, 51, the former British tennis star, has bought a home at Royal Westmoreland, a golf and residential resort in Barbados. Set in the hills of the parish of St. James, the villas cost from over £8 million down to £330,000. Ms Wade's sporting neighbours include Ian Woosnam, the golfer.



Ms Wade has a new Caribbean retreat.

● IAN BOTHAM is thought to be interested in buying at least a share of a 7,430 acre sporting estate on the Outer Hebrides island of Lewis. The Aline Estate with a five bedroom hunting lodge, two salmon rivers, lochs and game shooting is near to Amhuinnsidhe owned by cinder millionaire Jonathan Bulmer.

● A FLAT in a house once lived in by Gabriel Dante Rossetti is available for rent from Chestertons. The poet and painter was trained at the British Academy and helped to found the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

● DAVID BOWIE has bought a £2.5 million house in The Little Boltons, while Queen Moor of Jordan is rumoured to have bought a house in Egerton Terrace, both in South Kensington.

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Stomping on gazumping

Rachel Kelly on new proposals to tighten the rules of house-buying

Homeowners who back out of a house sale to accept a better offer from another buyer could face financial penalties under plans recommended by the National Association of Estate Agents.

The NAEA proposes a new pre-contract deposit agreement which stipulates that a buyer and seller each pay 0.5 per cent of the agreed price to a stakeholder, either the solicitor or estate agent. On payment of this deposit, the two sides commit themselves to an exchange of contracts within a certain number of weeks.

The scourge of gazumping has returned with the recovery in the market, and the NAEA reports that up to 50,000 sales last year were affected, about 5 per cent of all sales. The problem is worst in London and the South East.

Some agents, especially in London, use "lock-out" agreements. Sellers who have accepted an offer, agree not to accept any higher offers within a fixed period of time. Doing so makes them liable to a breach of contract recognised by an Appeal Court ruling of July 1993.

But Mr Dunsmore-Hardy says: "The lock-out agreement has not really caught on outside the South East because it is rather unwieldy. Also, it is rather one-sided: the vendor has little incentive to keep to the agreement."

The NAEA's scheme was first proposed in 1987 by the Law Commission in response to the rising tide of gazumping during the then property boom. A subsequent collapse in the housing market meant the scheme was never adopted by agents.

Although gazumping is the more common problem, the deposit agreement is also attractive to vendors because it prevents the buyer from lowering his offer.

The Labour Party is considering whether to adopt the Scottish system where sealed bids are submitted and the one accepted is legally binding. A pre-contract deposit agreement, similar to the NAEA scheme, has also been discussed, whereby both buyers and sellers would have to put up a deposit, worth up to 1 per cent of the property's value. No single policy has yet been agreed on and Labour is expected to publish a consultation paper next month.

He was confident that the system would prove popular.

The private sector is already eyeing up the DSS sale of the century

Builders' benefits

The Department of Social Security is selling at least 700 office buildings nationwide to the private sector in what has been dubbed the "sale of the century". Rachel Kelly writes. It is the latest example of privatisation following the sale of service homes by the Ministry of Defence last year.

There could be opportunities for housebuilders as the DSS does not need all the buildings it occupies. Many DSS offices are in residential areas in towns. The Benefit Agency's office at Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, for example, is surrounded by houses and near the Royal Lytham golf course - a fine spot for a developer. Equally the Hinchley Wood site at Esher in Surrey has plenty of spare building land.

In future, developers will charge the DSS for supplying and maintaining its offices in a bid to reduce bills. Last October, the DSS shortlisted three out of six prospective bidders: Partnership Property Management, Mapeley Holdings, and Opus. The DSS will choose one team this month and the successful company will overnight become a major property company with a portfolio worth £100 million a year.

The deal will also include the DSS's unwanted property, which will have tremendous redevelopment potential worth millions of pounds. The department will continue to use the offices it needs for 15-25 years and will be paying the successful company £40 million each year for a facilities management contract.

The buildings are a mixture of leasehold and freehold and are scattered nationwide. The DSS occupies a larger collection of land and buildings than any other single government department. The sites include a 40,000 square metre office complex at Norcross in Blackpool and listed offices close to Euston station in London, including 194A Euston Road and 30 Euston Square. The 27,000 square metre Fiveways complex in Birmingham, which needs refurbishment, is also a part of the deal.

Chestertons, the agent, is selling 30 Euston Square, on the corner of Melton Street, a listed building built around 1907 by the architect Beresford Pite. The building has a modified classical Roman facade with Ionic columns and a portico, and comprises four storeys with attics and basements.

The house builder Wilson Connolly and Berkeley has already expressed interest in some of the sites.

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VIEW

After the theft of antiques, works of art and garden ornaments, stately home owners are fighting back, says Rachel Kelly

Specialist criminals target aristocracy

It was a hot May bank holiday, and Sir Thomas Ingilby, the sixth baronet, had opened his home, Ripley Castle in Yorkshire, to the public as usual. No one was suspicious when a visitor with a gammy leg told the guide he and his lady friend would catch up.

Later that day, Sir Thomas realised that a sword bloodied at the 1644 Battle of Marston Moor and a trooper's leather furcoat were missing. The sword had been slipped down the gentleman's trouser leg and the coat smuggled out beneath his mackintosh.

From that theft in 1988 sprang the Stately Homes Hotline which distributes information to 500 other stately home-owners. Now Sir Thomas is going further. He is to hire a force of retired policemen and intelligence officers under the aegis of the Council for the Prevention of Art Theft (Copat) which unites stately home owners, loss adjusters, insurers and heritage groups.

Armed with a business plan and corporate backing, Sir Thomas will approach the Lottery Commission for funding of his new team of three officers. Mark Dalrymple, Copat's chairman, and a loss adjuster with Tyler & Co, says: "This type of crime is so vast that police resources aren't enough. I estimate the crimes are costing the public between £300 and £500 million a year. Only half a dozen forces have their own officer who specialises in the theft of valuable antiques."

Mr Dalrymple hopes Copat's

new bureau will pool homeowners' resources to help police fight theft. A number of retired officers have already shown an interest in volunteering their skills to help collate and disseminate information.

For example, a "theft report" could be issued immediately after a theft thanks to the help of a reference library of stately home owners' antiques. Copat is drawing up guidelines for dealers to exercise diligence and is advising owners to photograph their possessions. "The biggest hindrance to police has

been owners' inability to positively identify their possessions," said Philip Saunders, editor of *Trace*, the monthly magazine that deals with art and antiques theft.

"The bureau would establish what thefts are in vogue and where stolen goods are turning up," Mr Dalrymple said. "For example, I've had more cases of robberies with assault this year than in previous years." Detective Chief Inspector Charles Hill, who specialises in art and antique theft for Belgravia CID in London, says he backs Sir Thomas' plan: "Crime is a matter for the police and the courts, but as a means of assistance to the police I encourage Copat's proposals."

Sir Thomas' action comes after a spate of raids. He fears country houses are now the victims of specialist gangs. Derek Milner, a consultant at Minet Ltd, a firm of fine art brokers, explains: "Often they're very professional. They do their homework by going around estates as paying visitors during



Sir Thomas Ingilby, the sixth baronet, knows from experience that Ripley castle in Yorkshire is a mouth-watering target for burglars after valuable antiques

the day to examine the security arrangements."

Mr Saunders tells of a visitor who, by bending down to tie his shoelaces, used specially-stripped socks to measure the height of infatigable security rays.

Mr Dalrymple says: "Burglars are no longer bothering to go for the video recorder but the clock on the mantelpiece. A police officer recently told me the most popular programme on a Sunday at Brixton prison is the Antiques Roadshow."

Burglars of private country homes have gone to remarkable lengths recently. Hydraulic lifting equipment and helicopters have been cited as tools of the trade, and criminals stole the tractor of a Sussex home to carry away two 17th-century lead urns.

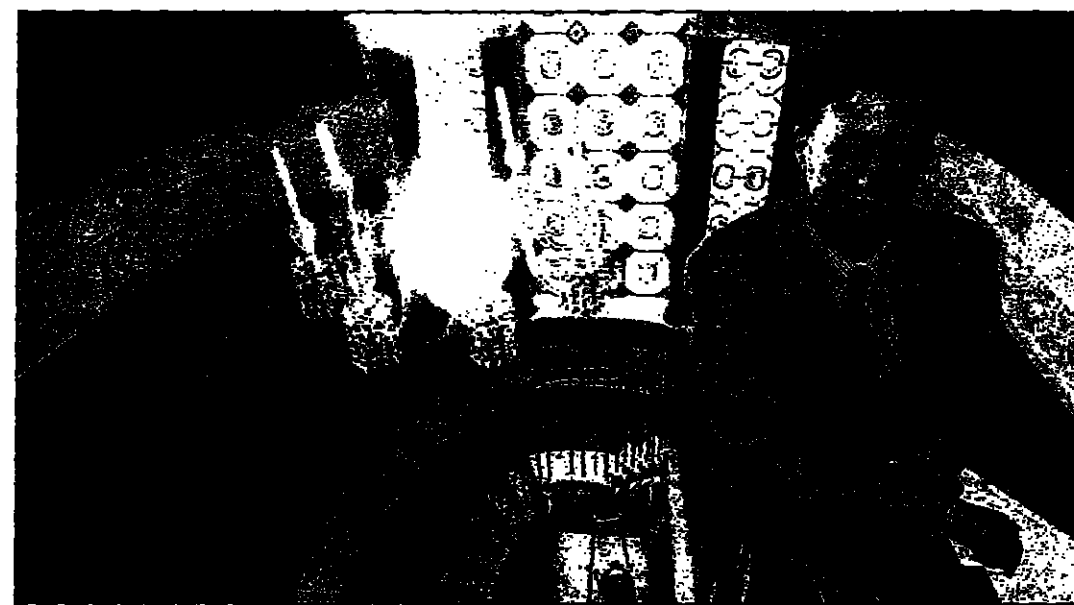
At a home near High Wycombe burglars sawed through the ankles of a £50,000 statue, and a thief sailed across the River Tyne in a rubber dinghy to rob the Duke of

Roxburgh's heavily fortified Floors Castle and make off with Fabergé and Cartier treasures.

Last year the Marquess of Bath had a £5 million painting stolen from his Longleat House, and in November Lord and Lady McGowan were handcuffed and assaulted by a gang who broke into their home at Lower Froyle, Hants.

Outdoor thefts are also on the increase. Mr Saunders estimates that theft of garden ornaments and statues has risen by 45 per cent over the past year. He says: "Lead fountain heads, sundials, cast-iron seats, urns and paving stones are all just as valuable as many of the contents inside these houses, but owners have not yet woken up to the fact that they need alarms."

No one knows that better than Sir Thomas. Much to his annoyance, he recently lost two 19th-century garden urns from Ripley and is now raising a nationwide alarm.



Sir Thomas on the staircase of Ripley castle, full of tempting objets d'art dating back generations

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A blot on the Chiantishire landscape

A plan to build factories in an unspoilt area of Italy will ruin a holiday idyll, says Rossella Lorenzi

If you want to buy a vineyard retreat in soothing Chiantishire, perhaps you had better think twice. Prices in this exclusive Tuscan spot are expected to fall dramatically by the end of the year with news of plans to turn a slice of the countryside into industrial estate. Plans are to be approved soon by Radda town council in Chianti, the town often referred to as the capital of the Chianti wine-growing region.

One of Italy's loveliest areas is threatened. In order to "respond to the demands of economic sectors in difficulty", the town council has approved a plan to build in Campomaggio, a picturesque valley planted with vines and olives, rows of factories and workshops. Situated between the villages of Lucarelli and Radda, Campomaggio was the backdrop to Bernardo Bertolucci's film *Stealing Beauty*, and has several expensive restored farmhouses.

Among those who live there are Matthew Spender, the sculptor, and Gregor von Rezzori, the novelist. Many foreigners have settled in the Chianti region, with its magical mix of medieval towns, crenellated castles, cypress trees, vineyards, olive trees and chestnut forests.

But the industrial plan approved by the Council of Radda could bring the idyll to an end. The

council is due to discuss the "observations" of the resident committee and the environmental associations at the end of this month. The case will then be passed to the Tuscan regional council, returned to the council and afterwards forwarded to the Fine Art Superintendent for final approval.

Raffaele Susini, the mayor, says this process should take at least a year, but he is confident that the scheme for a 14,000 square-metre site — enough for at least 48 tiny villas for local artisans on the left bank of the river Pesa and a 130,000 square-metre industrial estate on the opposite bank — will go ahead.

Originally conceived for a local company which produces kitchen furniture and employs about 40 people in a factory in Radda, the plan for the industrial complex is not finalised. As the company has refused to move to Campomaggio other companies are expected to settle in the valley. The area could

easily accommodate between 25 to 30 medium-sized factories.

"It is absolutely monstrous", says Barbara Dovat, an English property adviser who specialises in Tuscany and the Chianti region. "We wouldn't have any buyers left if this scheme came off. Who would like to buy a farmhouse surrounded by factories? I wonder how all this could have happened, as in the Chianti you need to ask permission even for changing a window."

So far, tight planning laws have stopped the developers and have succeeded in keeping Chianti intact.

Keen to preserve its original character, and their properties, too, a committee of residents is now fighting the town council. The group includes Matthew Spender, Bernardo Bertolucci, the composer Luciano Berio, the publisher Giulio Einaudi, the film-director brothers Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, the art historian James Beck and the Duchess of Hamilton. They all

either have a house in the Chianti or spend holidays there.

Sienna's Fine Arts Superintendent has already attacked the plan, and the region must still approve the project before it can go ahead, but the residents are pessimistic about the outcome.

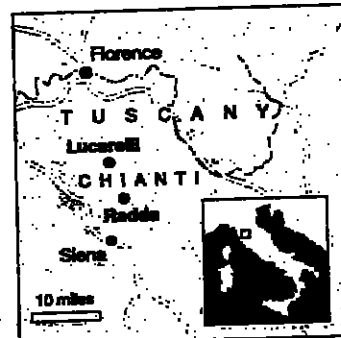
"I've given up all hope that they will change their mind," says Giulio Grana, the owner of an 11th century windmill overlooking Campomaggio.

"In the past some other horrid buildings have been built in the middle of the countryside, such as a huge gas station and an industrial complex now abandoned."

The idea of the new factories has horrified the Taviani brothers, who set their film *The Night of San Lorenzo* in the area. "I'm sure the farmers of Radda are against this plan. They are deeply attached to their land," says Vittorio Taviani. The Duchess of Hamilton is equally worried. "The factories will destroy this landscape where birds, butterflies and other indigenous fauna flourish," she says.

James Beck, a Columbia University art professor who criticized the restoration of Michelangelo's Last Judgment in the Sistine Chapel, has lambasted Radda council. "The Chianti has a constant, uninterrupted connection with its past. Here the landscape is really part of our artistic heritage," he says.

Signor Susini is unmoved by such protests and is convinced that the factories will go ahead. "Withdrawing this project would be extremely dangerous for Radda," he says. "This is a chance we cannot miss. We need to build factories for the inhabitants' sake. The valley is not that beautiful. The area that the British call Chiantishire does not really exist, I am afraid."



Plans to build industrial estates like this have met with uproar from British expatriates



The countryside of Chiantishire, unspoilt since Cosimo III declared it to be a wine-growing region



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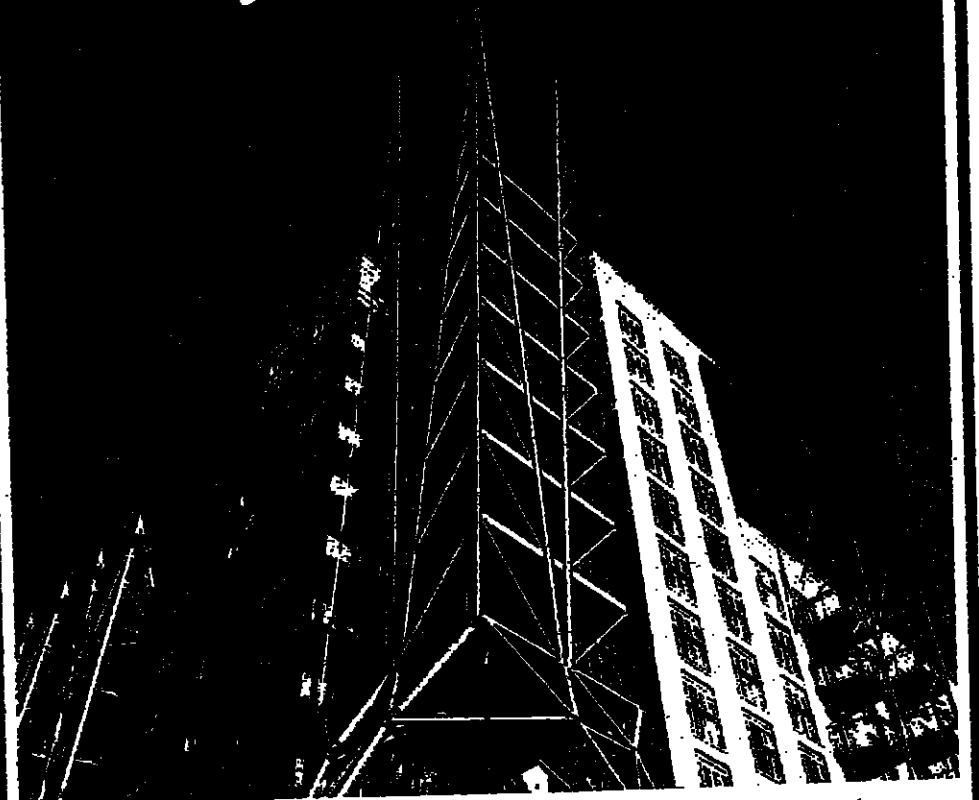
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Bullish mood in British sector is tempered by interest rate fear, reports Christopher Warman

Market is on a roll

Prospects for the commercial property market this year are encouraging, with business confidence growing and companies expecting a further pick-up in business, led by domestic demand.

There is, however, one anxiety which tempers this optimism: the forthcoming general election. International bankers are becoming more nervous about the consequences of a change in government, according to the latest Richard Ellis survey into the attitudes of the world's leading property investors and bankers.

The percentage of international bankers who feel that the prospects for British commercial investment property will improve under a Labour government has fallen from 41 per cent to 36 per cent, with more than 40 per cent — thinking that a Conservative government would be better.

Richard Ellis says that the decline in confidence in Labour could

be because 90 per cent of bankers feel that a Labour government would result in a rise in short-term interest rates, while 82 per cent fear a rise in inflation. Perhaps as a consequence, fewer bankers than last year (58 per cent compared with 61 per cent) have said that they intend to increase their lending to the UK property market.

Investors' faith in London continues to grow

By contrast, confidence in the London property market generally continues to rise, with both investors (86 per cent) and bankers (72 per cent) feeling that the property investment market has improved. This is reflected by their opinion that the capital remains significantly more attractive to investors than Paris or Frankfurt. Consequently, there has been a rise in the number of investors aiming to increase their investment in London in the next 12 months (46 per cent, compared with 32 per cent in the last survey), and 58 per cent intending to grow their investment in the UK property market as a whole.



Royal view: Grosvenor Estate Holdings plans to redevelop Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, opposite the Buckingham Palace gardens. The new office complex will be completed by mid-1999.

This message is reinforced by a survey by the Confederation of British Industry and Grinley, which reports the highest expectations among UK companies since the first survey in November 1994, although the upturn in the market has been modest, of the companies taking part, 32 per cent expect to increase their property holdings in the next six months, compared with 26 per cent which expect a reduction and 41 per cent no change — a positive balance of 6 per cent.

The largest increases in property holdings are expected to be in the sectors covering distribution, metal manufacturing and chemical processing, transport and communications, whereas in the past six months the biggest increases were in the retail sector. Companies with more than 5,000 employees are expected to make the best progress,

reversing the trend over the previous six months when they reduced their holdings. Sudhir Jamnankar, CBI associate director of economic analysis, acknowledged the strengthening of business confidence. "With profitability set to grow faster over the next six months, the upturn in the commercial property market is becoming more firmly based."

year is expected to be led by the North West, followed by Northern Ireland, Greater London and Scotland.

Stuart Morley, Grinley's head of research, said that companies were noticeably more optimistic about employment prospects than in previous surveys, and that was feeding through into increased property demand. "The prospects are increasingly encouraging."

Jones Lang Wootton was bullish. John Stephen, investment partner, said the prospect of improving property returns had led to investment activity taking off in the last six months. "Fund managers want to get into a rising market which is attractive when compared with the current volatility in the equity and gilt markets."

Malcolm Naish, Jones Lang Wootton fund management partner, responsible for managing over £3 billion of institutional property, explained that the retail sector, buoyed by the upturn in consumer spending, was the focus of attention. Shopping centres, retail warehouse parks and large shop units were all keenly sought after.

He concludes, "Looking ahead through 1997, we anticipate that UK institutions will retain a strong appetite for property and that the buying trend will continue. A general election usually creates an investment hiatus as investors go slow pending the result. This time the likely change of government has been factored in and new investment is set to continue apace." The fact is that the general election, and its possible impact, is in everyone's minds.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

□ AUTODOME Limited has agreed to purchase the Battersea Wharf site adjoining Chelsea Bridge, in London, for a development to be used to celebrate the achievements of the car industry. It will include a one million sq ft building designed as an "internationally significant landmark" for the capital.

Howard Woolston, of Knight Frank, who advised Autodome, said that the company had been specifically formed for the project and was fully financed.

□ BIRMINGHAM Business Park, Arlington Securities development in the West Midlands, is set for further growth as Arlington, with joint developers AMP Asset Management, announces the re-purchase of a 40-acre site on the park acquired by British Gas Properties in 1990.

The transaction comes after a successful year at the park, with more than 150,000 sq ft of space disposed of and the completion of Phase 1 of King's Court, the first speculative office development there for four years. Four of the five units built have already been let.

□ PLANS for the regeneration of a neglected area of London Docklands between West India Dock and the Limehouse Link have been announced by the West India Quay Development Company, a consortium of the Manhattan Loft Corporation, London and Eastern Properties and Marylebone Warwick Balfour.

The company has submitted a planning application centred on a quay-side Grade 1 listed warehouse. Refurbished, the warehouse will provide 70,000 sq ft of restaurant and retail units, and 160,000 sq ft of residential space divided into 10 loft apartments. The scheme will include a 250-bedroom hotel, a 9-screen multiplex cinema and a supermarket.

□ The two-day IDRC winter congress which is held in London this week has the theme "Real estate in partnership with corporate strategy". The congress will explore the role that a company's property can play in its decisions.

Goldrush ahead in free South Africa

Christopher Warman finds a major player banking on a boom in Johannesburg

South Africa will emerge as one of the world's most important property markets over the next 10-15 years, property consultants Knight Frank predict. "This sense of optimism is firmly grounded in political reform and economic change," says a report by Knight Frank Research.

"In global terms, the process of reform since democratisation in 1990 has been amongst the most profound and dramatic of the post-war era. While both the economy and society remain volatile, most sectors of the business economy are now growing and changing rapidly, supporting a general property market boom across the country."

The report has been timed to coincide with Knight Frank's expansion into South Africa. It will open its first office in Johannesburg after acquiring an interest in Multiprop, a Johannesburg-based property consultancy, whose principals, Mike Brown and Ian Young, will retain a substantial stake in the company and remain executive directors. Peter Caroe, Knight Frank's regional chairman, said: "We have researched the market in South Africa with great patience and care over the last five years and

have no doubt that we have now joined forces with some of the most able people in the field."

Knight Frank employs 2,300 staff in over 100 offices in 22 countries, handling annual sales worth over US\$5 billion and managing properties worth over US\$17 billion. Its South Africa report lists the main market centres in order of their size and importance as Johannesburg (all sectors), Cape Town (office and retail), Durban (industrial), Pretoria (Government administrative), Port Elizabeth (industrial) and East London (industrial).

The South African office market has grown rapidly over the past three years. Rental levels have been rising strongly and investment activity remains intense. Developers and investors have initiated a speculative

development boom in response to the strong market. Prime rents in Johannesburg equate to £7 a sq ft — considerably cheaper than other global, developed economies. This makes office occupancy overheads in South Africa much lower than in comparable markets, and the position will be maintained despite strong rental growth forecasts, Knight Frank believes.

The industrial sector has also been expanding rapidly, and the report describes the retail market as "unique, comprising a complex mix of first and third world retail formats spread across an incredibly varied and complex urban geography".

It goes on: "To the foreign eye, it is nothing short of remarkable. It is as if the American mall concept has been interwoven with downtown Bombay, with passing reference to the strip-style development of an Australian outback town."

"This makes the retail sector perhaps the most complex and challenging commercial asset class of the future." Following reform, the report concludes, South Africa is "one of the world's most complex and dynamic real estate markets".

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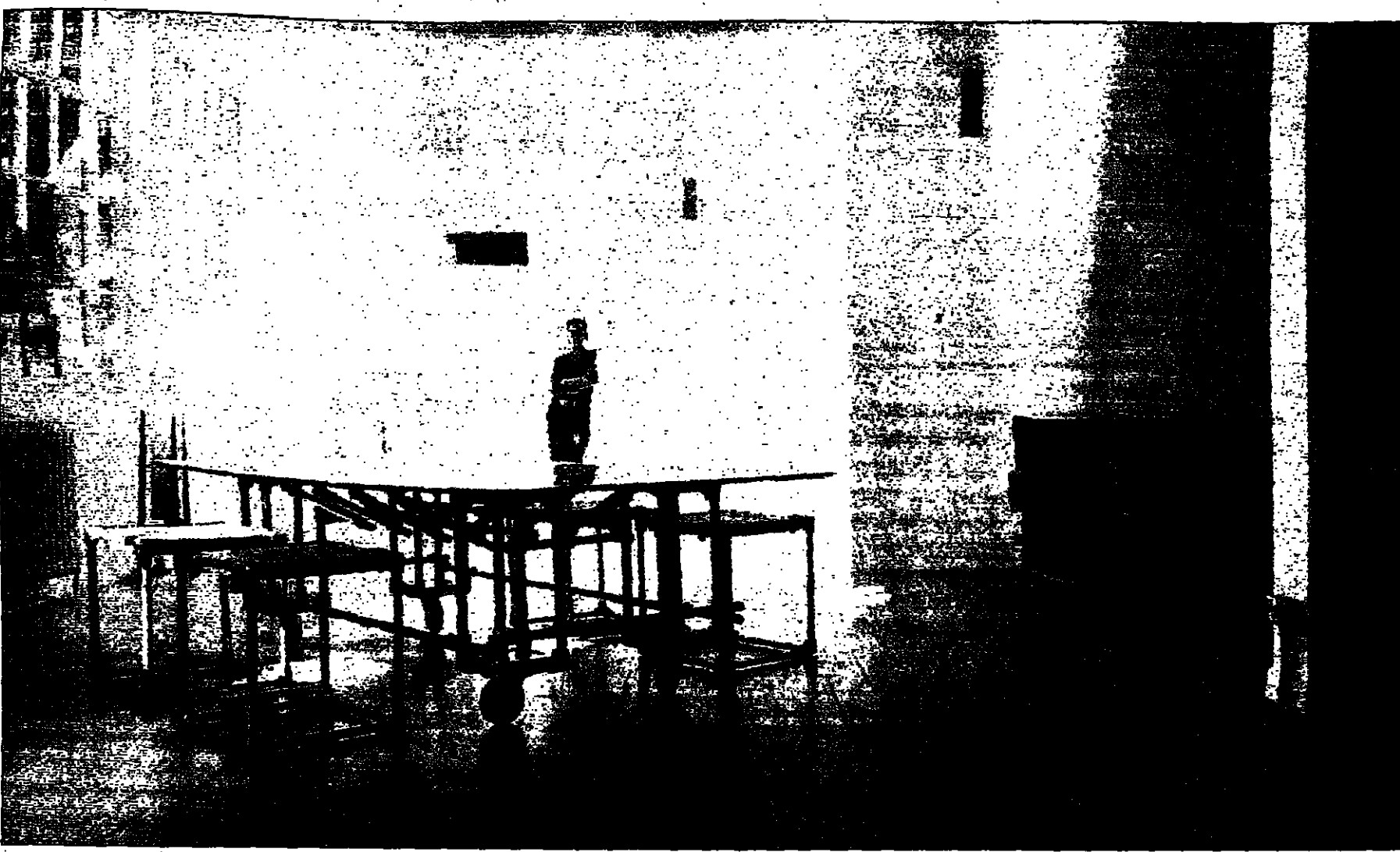
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The term 'loft' is now so trendy that it's used to describe poky flats, says Amanda Loose



"We wanted to promote real space, real value and real people as the ingredients for real lofts, rather than big developers, brochures and profits," says James Lynch

A campaign for genuine lofts

We have had advertising campaigns for real ale and for real fires. Now developers think it is high time we had a campaign for real lofts. Fed up with the production of tacky and imitation lofts, leading developer James Lynch of the City Loft Company says aficionados of loft living must act, before it is too late.

"We wanted to promote real space, real value and real people as the ingredients for real lofts, rather than big developers, brochures and profits," says Mr Lynch. "You read the same old stories in the press about the loft lifestyle, but it's over. In 12 months' time, new lofts in central London won't be available. People's perception of what constitutes a loft lifestyle is dictated by the seller," he says.

"If a house builder re-skins a 1960s office block in rustic brick-work and creates a 600 square foot hutch with lime green walls and glass bricks in the lobby and calls it a loft, people who aspire to the 'lifestyle' rather than looking at the loft itself will believe they are actually living in a loft."

Finding an authentic loft in the midst of imitations is no mean feat, according to Lorna Vestey of Knight Frank. A growing number of so-called lofts are not lofts at all, she says.

"While some wonderful double-height units of real scale and volume are still coming on to the market and command good prices from their many enthusiasts, some developers are jumping on the loft bandwagon and selling apartments which are low-ceilinged flats merely masquerading as lofts," says Ms Vestey.

Developer Harry Handelsman came to London from New York's

SoHo district in 1983 and began the rush to loftdom. Many followed suit, including Tom Blaxham of Urban Splash who, at 32, has already developed 750,000 square metres of warehouse space into offices and lofts in Liverpool and Manchester.

"In the late 1980s many people could not find the sort of home they wanted from the standard developments," says Mr Handelsman. "Lofts gave people a chance to be creative and involved in the design of their own homes. They could buy huge industrial shells and do whatever they wanted with them."

A loft should be open-plan, not less than 1,000 square feet, with a high ceiling

Ironically, traditional lofts have been adapted into standard apartments in some cases, and the word "loft" has become a trendy label which will guarantee a sale. Alfred Buller, of Bee Bee Developments, says: "The word loft has become a brand name but it should not be used just to describe wooden floors and big windows on a modern development."

The original loft idea has been watered down, agrees Richard Artus of Urban Spaces, who is a devotee of the "true spirit" of loft living. "People imagine they can still buy large warehouse space

apartments, but in fact, except possibly two or three developers who stand apart, lofts are becoming apartments and are getting smaller," he says.

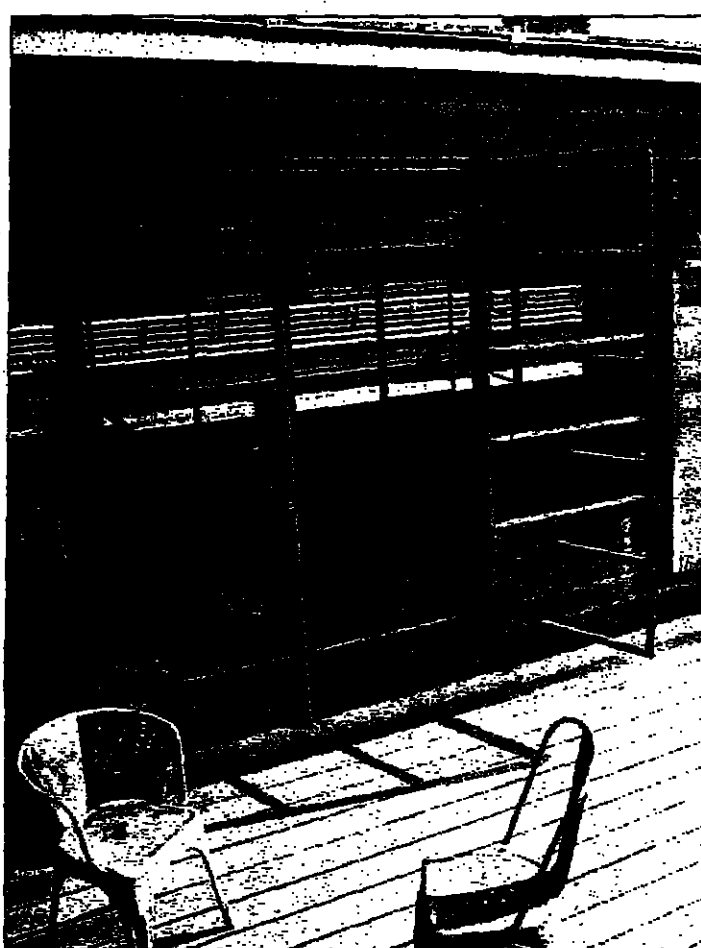
"Part of the problem is that the demand for commercial loft space has increased, particularly in the creative sector. So private individuals have started to outbid the developers. This has pushed up the price of loft space, from about £30 per square foot 18 months ago to as much as £100 per square foot today."

Lofts are suffering as the commercial property market continues to recover, agrees Colin Serlin of London Buildings. "When rents start to equal residential value, new lofts won't come on the market any more," he says.

Mr Artus has been living in his loft in Clerkenwell, north London, for a year. It is an old warehouse which he did up himself and then let out to friends. "I used to live further north in Highgate, but a loft really suits my lifestyle. I am separated from my family, but when my children come to stay they can play football inside and they love it."

"The loft is rather haphazard and rambling, but that's the true spirit of loft living. I haven't employed an interior designer or divided it into rooms. All I have added are a kitchen unit in the middle, sanded floors, electricity and a bathroom," he says.

Nothing has been done to the outside of the warehouse. Traditional American lofts are any industrial space above ground-floor level, says Mr Artus. They are not apartment blocks or the conversion of commercial buildings to residential. Real lofts retain their commercial character, he says.



Finding an authentic loft among the imitations is no mean feat

"A loft isn't a loft when it's a hospital, factory floor, school or when a marketing exercise says it is," agrees Ms Vestey.

Original loft developments work with the commercial building, says Mr Handelsman. "Loft buildings should be refurbished sympathetically, and the developer should use as many of the original features as possible to their best advantage," he says.

The most striking thing about a loft shell is light and space. Mr Artus says a loft should be a rambling and open-plan house, not less than 1,000 square feet, and should retain the double-height ceiling of an industrial building. Like all trends, lofts will inevitably

have their day, says Mr Lynch: "Leases come to an end, commercial pressures prevail, conversions take place, agents identify the next niche market, stylish magazines find the next stylish thing to write about, prices go up, sizes come down and then you have lime green and glassed brick new build flats being represented as lofts, which exist in name only."

Urban Spaces (0171-251 6661)
Bee Bee Developments (0171-336 0202)
Knight Frank (0171-621 8171)
Manhattan Loft Corporation (0171-631 1888)
City Loft Company (0171-613 1000)
The Piper Building (0171-736 2671)
Urban Splash (0161-834 5140)
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Wanted: a great barn of a place

It took 17 years for a couple to find their ideal home, a traditional timber barn

Seventeen years ago, Frank Lindsell, and his wife, Anita, began to plan their perfect house. They would move from their home in Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, into a traditional timber-frame barn converted for their retirement.

However, a search for a suitable barn in the couple's native Essex proved fruitless. "I have always wanted an Essex barn. There was a timber-frame barn near the farmhouse where I grew up and I love the look of them," says Mr Lindsell, 69.

For three years he scoured local newspapers and kept his eyes peeled when driving through the countryside. Although many barns were advertised, most needed to be converted on site. "I knew that if I was going to spend time and money converting one, it would have to be just right. I wanted to choose a private location. Most barns are built around a courtyard and the buildings are often too close together. Many also face the wrong way. I realised that moving a barn would solve all these problems."

The Lindsells eventually found their ideal barn in Suffolk. Built around 1650, on a farm outside Lavenham, it cost £10,000. It was heavily timbered and tall enough to incorporate a first floor.

Plank by plank, the barn was dismantled. Most of the timbers had been marked with Roman numerals by the original carpenters. With the help of six strong friends from the building trade, and about £4,000, the barn was transported by lorry to a friend's barn in Barrington, Cambridgeshire.

The next hurdle was finding a suitable site - preferably a sunny south-facing site in East Anglia. Mr Lindsell spent the next 12 years looking for the perfect position to rebuild his barn. It proved difficult. "If you are putting up a 50ft-long building you need a plot at least 60ft wide," he says. "Most village plots of this size have planning permission for two or three houses so you pay for each plot. It was the middle of the housing boom and plot prices were increasing."

In 1990, the year he retired, Mr Lindsell found a plot in Fordham, Cambridgeshire, with planning permission for one house and costing £65,000. Over the following year he negotiated with an architect and a conservation officer from Cambridgeshire County Council, all the while paying for the £250 a year to store his barn.

"I wanted it to be built as a timber-framed house with the oaks playing an important structural, rather than decorative, role. It wanted it to be as far from the road as possible and facing south. The architect wanted a brick-built house with the frame used cosmetically inside," Mr Lindsell says.

The conservation officer pre-

ferred a metal rather than a brick chimney because it was a barn, and wanted it covered with tarred boards. "I was absolutely horrified," Mr Lindsell says. "It was an oak frame which had been used as a barn for the first 300 years of its life and was now going to be used as a house. The conservation officer saw it as a barn which we wanted to live in."

Fortunately, the planning officer agreed with Mr Lindsell, and work started at the end of 1990. He employed a subcontractor but did much of the carpentry himself. He also organised the hunt for elusive building materials. "You need a lot of time to do something like this. To find authentic doors, floorboards and so on from reclamation yards, you have to be prepared to spend half a day finding something, the rest of the day carting it home and then spend three or four days sanding it to fit. It could not be done commercially," he says.

After building a dwarf wall to support the frame, the timbers took two weeks to erect and were then filled with building paper, expanded metal laths and rendering.

'I just love the ambience of Essex farm buildings'

The outer layers of the oak timbers, which are felled when the tree is young and are known as "sappy oak", had been attacked by woodworm and needed sand-blasting and treatment. The older layers were usually unaffected.

The large windows are oblong panes of glass and were specially made by a local joiner to fit between the timbers without breaking up the building's line. "We wished to let in as much light as possible to counter the dark stain of the timbers," Mrs Lindsell says.

The roof proved to be more complicated. Because the barn had a thatched roof with flat rafters, Mr Lindsell had to design a replacement. The council's building control department was concerned that the timber frame would be too weak to support a clay-tiled roof, so Mr Lindsell had to employ a structural engineer to give his professional opinion. Eventually, Mr Lindsell decided on a traditional bell-shaped roof.

The Lindsells moved in in May 1993. However, they have now sold up because the barn proved to be too large.

So, after nearly 15 years and about £165,000 later, was it worthwhile? "Definitely," Mr Lindsell says, "although it was very hard work and a great deal of worry was involved. The most difficult time was the day we had to dig a trench from the house to the road to link us up for the sewerage system, gas, electricity and the telephone," he says. "The road could be shut for only one day and we had all these people standing by. We just hoped that it wouldn't rain."

AMANDA LOOSE

No 1 in the ivy league

Amanda Foreman finds new life on urban windowsills

ALICE Lucas lives in a flat opposite a housing estate. "It's about as urban as you can get," she says. "But when I look outside my bedroom window all I see is a cottage garden overflowing with wildflowers."

The 30-year-old high school teacher from Willesden in London belongs to the new breed of city dweller whose enthusiasm for exterior decorating has transformed the window box trade from a side-line into a multi-million pound industry.

Every nursery says the same in the last two years sales have taken off dramatically. Lana Haynes of The Chelsea Gardener, London's most exclusive garden centre, says window boxes now account for over half their summer trade.

She believes this boom has its roots in the recession. "A lot of people couldn't afford to go on holiday. They had to stay at home so they became more interested in making their surroundings look nice."

A complete window box can cost as little as £25 or as much as £250. Preventing them from drying out in the summer has ceased to be a major problem since the development of water granules. The latest products will retain water in the soil for several days. As a result people are willing to buy more expensive plants.

There is also the incentive of a good return. Estate agent Philip Eastwood says that a beautiful window box is one of those subliminal touches which helps a house to sell.

Once a window box meant six red geraniums in a white plastic container but now there are bold and

adventurous designs which break all the rules. Some even use vegetables or fruit instead of flowers. Mike Miller of Clifton Nurseries in London has had requests for herb boxes, strawberry boxes and a tumbling tomato garden.

Fashion plays its part too, and the latest rage is for geometric designs. "The look at the moment," says Miller, "is for dark green pyramids with splashes of scarlet or white cyclamen in between."

Last summer the "in" colours were pink, white and mauve and as spring approaches designers are placing their bets on black and white.

The popularity of window boxes has prompted landscape gardeners to rethink their approach with many now using aspects of interior design. Kim Whitmore, owner of The Garden Shed in west London, explains: "When I see a client for the first time, I walk through the house looking for clues. I think a successful window box should play an equally important part inside the room as well as outside the house."

One of her most popular designs uses boxes painted the same colour as the front door with flowers matching the lining of the curtains.

Anyone stuck for ideas should visit the tropical aviary in Elystan Place, Chelsea. It is entirely the work of its

owner, Lady Wynne-Jones, a keen conservationist and founder, with the poet John Betjeman, of the Friends Of Chelsea society.

Two years ago she inherited a collection of exotic birds and couldn't bear to have them put down, especially the mating blue birds and the singing parrots.

So she built an artificial rain forest against the front of her house. Two feet deep and draped from top to bottom in fish-nets bought specially from Cornwall, it has a real willow tree and fake conifers for the birds, a hollow trunk for the Arctic squirrel to hibernate in and a miniature pond full of goldfish in the summer.

Since the birds like colour, Lady Wynne-Jones keeps her window boxes looking bright with a mixture of real and plastic flowers. They also have heated lights and a sauna bath.

Drivers have been known to stop dead in the street on catching sight of the house.

"I love the care and imagination that people in the Alps lavish on their window boxes," says Lady Wynne-Jones.

"I wish people would make more of an effort over here - it makes life so much more enjoyable."

She doesn't mind the crowds of people who gather in little knots to admire her creation and fortunately her neighbour, Oyston Berenson, doesn't object either.

A Norwegian working in London, he bought the next door house three years ago. "It is wonderful," he says. "I wake up in the morning and I hear the birds singing."



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Metropolis

The Government wants 4.4 million new homes built, says Rachel Kelly, but developers are having difficulty finding enough sites to meet the target

Builders cross swords with the greens

Environment Secretary John Gummer is likely to be remembered for one prediction: that we need to build 4.4 million homes by 2016 to cope with the growing number of new households. And at least 60 per cent of them must be built in urban areas.

Mr Gummer has identified the need, but not the solution. Where should all these new homes be built? The subject is one that is consuming developers, builders and conservationists.

Wimpey is involved in two developments on derelict land: Britannia Village in London's Docklands, and another, more controversial scheme still in its infancy, at Upper Heyford, a disused airforce base in the heart of Oxfordshire. In Greater London English Partnerships is investing nearly £8 million in the first phase of urban village development at Barking Reach, Partners include the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Bellway Homes and National Power. The development is expected to create

'We need a new approach to boost urban renewal'

5,000 new jobs and provide 15,000 homes for an anticipated population of 15,000 by 2010. Dr Ian Roxburgh, Wimpey's planning and environment director, identifies many of the problems faced by builders who wish to conform to the Government's desire to build on urban land. "Although Wimpey build over 50 per cent of their new homes in existing urban areas there is just not enough land available for the Government's new target," he says.

"People do not realise that 12 per cent of new urban homes are built on land never built on before. Moreover, there is demand for rural developments, with 7 per cent of people moving away from urban areas. Families want gardens, security and good schools. One would expect planning systems to produce a better quality of life for house buyers."

Quality of life is as important as preserving the countryside, says Roger Humber, director of the House Builders Federation. "We are concerned about the unrealistic targets being set for development in urban areas. We believe that to expect an ever-growing percentage of new homes to be built on reclaimed land will deny a quality of housing and environment to those expected to live in these urban areas."

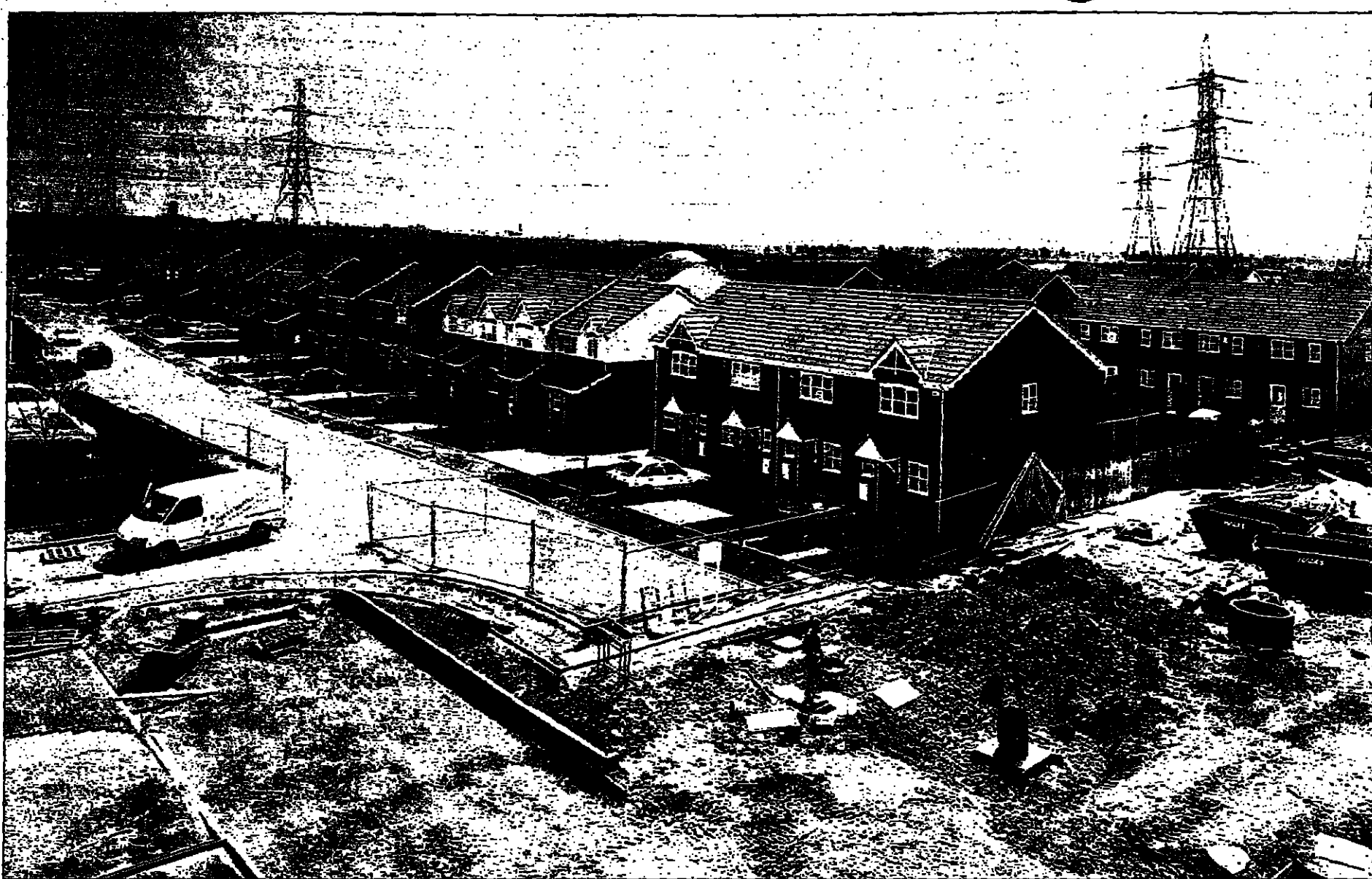
Although there is an estimated 20,481 acres of derelict land in Britain, according to a 1995 Department of Environment survey, in most parts of the country the land does not tally with the number or locations of homes needed. The mismatch is most acute in the southeast, where there is little derelict land for the

projected 1.7 million homes needed in the region over the next 20 years. In Buckinghamshire, for example, a 30 per cent increase in house-holds is predicted. But the county has no derelict land. In the capital, there is projected demand for an extra 629,000 homes over the next 20

years, but the amount of brownfield land will house only 98,400 new homes. Builders naturally wish to build elsewhere.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) disagrees. More homes need to be built in urban areas, it says. Its target is for 75 per cent of new housing to be built in urban areas, as opposed to the current 60 per cent outlined by Mr Gummer. The CPRE is calling for a tax levy on greenfield development and for VAT to be waived on refurbishing residential property.

Tony Burton of CPRE says: "No part of England is free from the spectre of unnecessary urban sprawl. The increased target for urban housebuilding is welcome but it needs to be still higher. We mustn't give up on the investment already made in our towns and cities. A new ap-



Barking Reach in Greater London, the first phase of an urban village development costing £32 million, which is expected to create 5,000 jobs and house 15,000 people by 2010

proach to managing housing development is needed which encourages urban renewal."

One development that adopts just such a new approach to urban renewal could be the answer: a new village on once derelict land in the Docklands. Work started on the £80-million Britannia Village at West Silvertown, east London, one of Britain's newest urban villages in 1995. The 1,100 house development on a 28-acre derelict site on the south side of the Royal Vic-

toria Dock, is owned by the London Docklands Development Committee (LDDC) and Tate & Lyle.

Developers plan to provide all the trappings of traditional village life, including a village green, village hall with creche, and a primary school. The Peabody Trust is building shops in the area and the West Silvertown Foundation has been established, endowed with £500,000, to promote community development. Like most villages, Britan-

nia will have residents drawn from all walks of life. Social housing has been built by Hunting Gate Group for the Peabody Trust and the East Thames Housing Group. More than 900 houses and flats will be built by Wimpey Homes, for private rental and ownership, 126 of which have already been sold, with 62 families moving in so far.

Dave Fallows, 32, is an enthusiast of life in an urban village. He joined Mr Gummer last November at the unveiling of a commemorative flagstone as work started on 235 more houses for rent at the urban village.

Mr Fallows and his wife Donna, 31, have lived in old West Silvertown for 12 years with their children Danny, Michael, and Matthew. The family moved into a three-bedroom Peabody Trust house just over a year ago from a nearby tower block.

"This environment is much better for our children. We are a close community as many of us lived together in the tower blocks. We were lucky to move in at the beginning because we were very involved in how the community developed. The LDDC listened to what we wanted, both with the houses and the community centre. It plans to build a school. The potential is really there," says Mr Fallows.

Plans are being prepared by Wimpey for the development of 5,000 new homes at Upper Heyford in rural Oxfordshire on 1,246 acres of derelict land. Wimpey initially wants permission for 1,000 homes, a school, and a business park providing 1,500 new jobs.

Dr Roxburgh ultimately wants to build a mixed settlement modern market town, home to 13,500 people, including four primary schools, a secondary school, police station and a 4,500-acre country park with leisure facilities. There is to be a planning inquiry next year to decide whether permission can be granted.



The house where Thomas Hardy was born in Upper Rockhampton, near Dorchester

Inspiration behind Thomas Hardy's Tess

Christine Webb reviews estate cottages in Dorset

TWO cottages which Thomas Hardy must have seen while researching settings for one of his novels have just been released for rent.

The pretty cottages in neighbouring Dorset villages make even better homes now than they did then, thanks to diligent refurbishment carried out by the conservation-minded owners, a trust administered by the Ilchester Estate.

Tess Cottage lies across the road from the church in Evershot, which Hardy called Evershead in his novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. It was where young Tess stopped to drink some milk before discovering the preacher Alec d'Urberville, who was to become her seducer, addressing a crowd in a barn.

About £65,000 has been spent on updating the 17th-century Tess Cottage, which has been refurnished using reeds from the estate's beds at Abbotsbury. Tenants' expectations were not quite as high in Hardy's day, but then neither were rents. Now the cottage is centrally heated and offers three bedrooms, a sitting-room, dining-room, study, kitchen, utility room, bathroom and garden at £600 a month.

Hardy, who was born in 1840 and died in 1928, must also have known Meads Cottage, a thatched house in the next village, Melbury Osmond, where his mother lived. The cottage is being converted from two small homes into one family home with three bedrooms, a kitchen-diner, utility room, bathroom and sitting-room. It still has huge flagstones on the ground floor and will be available at £650 a month.

The estate covers more than 10,000 acres

and goes to some lengths to carry out its restorations in keeping with the area, says the agent, Edward Green. "We've been involved in a lot of renovations over the past 20 years. Our policy now is to retain ownership of residential property and to renovate it for the letting market. In the past we used to do more long leaseholds, which enabled others to take on some of the burden of maintaining properties, and gave them plenty of time in which to recoup their investment, but a change in legislation has blocked that route by giving householders the right to buy their leases when they are longer than 35 years. Now we only let on a short-term basis of up to seven years," he says.

"So we have a rolling programme of renovation. The cottages are usually built from traditional materials and it takes a certain amount of skill to maintain them. We have our own workforce, but we use local contractors, too."

"The main problem with these properties is that they are seldom built on deep foundations, so rising damp overtakes them. Modern damp-proofing techniques are successful, but at Tess Cottage we also had to rebuild the gable because of settlement. It is expensive, and it is our policy to renovate these places in keeping with their surroundings. The estate has been in business since 1500. The sense of responsibility and commitment traditional landlords have meant that estate villages are what many people would regard as being the most desirable places," says Mr Green.

The Ilchester Estate, The Estate Office, Melbury Osmond, Dorset, DT2 0LF. Tel: 01362 63222

The housing recovery and extremes of weather have meant more claims, writes Amanda Loose

Home insurance premiums soar

The boom in the housing market and extreme weather conditions have contributed to an unexpected headache for homeowners in the form of rising building insurance premiums. Bills have already risen by an average of 4 per cent for a three-bedroom semi-detached house, and are expected to go up by up to 10 per cent this year.

Jeff Kehoe of Royal Sun Alliance says: "We expect building premiums to rise by an average of 5 to 10 per cent across the market this year, and the increase in the number of subsidence and weather related claims in 1996 is a major factor."

Hot summers and cold winters have caused chaos for many householders. Last winter insurers received more than 200,000 claims for burst pipes alone. Costs of claims reached their highest levels since December 1981.

The big freeze of 1995/1996 resulted in 6,900 claims for insurer Norwich Union, costing £15.5 million, the biggest non-catastrophe weather incident since 1989. A similar number is expected this year.

Only now are the true after-effects of the long hot summers of 1994 and 1995 being felt. Though the damage was inflicted then, it is only now being rectified. Insurance



Furniture is stored in the lounge after water from a burst pipe in the loft caused chaos in this house in Potters Bar

often insist subsidence damage is rectified before the purchase can proceed.

Subsidence claims soared from 9,700 in the first quarter of 1996 to 13,400 in the third, according to the Association of British Insurers.

The total bill for subsidence claims incurred in the first three quarters of last year was £222 million, compared with £125 million in the whole of 1994.

Suzanne Moore of the Association says: "Building premiums fell when the market was stagnant, and there were fewer subsidence claims. "One of the side effects of an active market is that problems like subsidence are spotted during surveys."

"To sell your house you need to put the problem right. A prospective buyer will often insist on it. Cold weather claims also fuel rising building premiums. Domestic claims cost insurers £306 million in the first quarter of last year."

Franco Tiramani, 32, was one of the victims of last winter's big freeze. His two-bedroom cottage in Potters Bar, near Barnet in north

flooded, after the pipes burst on January 2. One year later, repair work on the house is still not finished, although insurers Direct Line settled the claim promptly. He is still living with his parents.

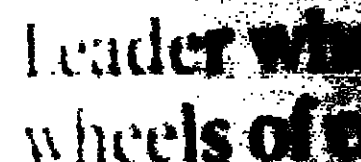
"I was at work when I got the call. I had been staying with my family for the New Year and had turned the central heating off. I was devastated when I saw the damage. The water came through to the main bedroom and then to the dining room underneath the loft, because there was so much of it. The only room not affected was the conservatory," says Mr Tiramani.

"Because there were so many burst pipes last year, I couldn't hire dehumidifiers to dry the house out straight away. When work did start, I found out that every room had to be replastered. I needed a new kitchen, new electrics, new kitchen and bathroom floors, and even new clothes. A year later, the nightmare is still going on."

The rises are likely to hit those customers most likely to produce claims because they are in subsidence areas, says James Duffell of Norwich Union. "Some customers can expect average premium rises of 2.5 to 4 per cent on average, although these are not just due



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HONG KONG
COUNTDOWN

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

Plea for m

Pakistan landslide gives chance to cut President's power

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

PAKISTAN is to get its first one-party elected government after a landslide victory by Nawaz Sharif in Monday's general election. Which gives him an unprecedented opportunity to assert the authority of parliament over the immense powers of the army and the President.

Benazir Bhutto, her Pakistan People's Party reduced to the margins in the National Assembly, rejected the result, but said she would not create instability because poor people would suffer. This promises to be a temporary respite.

The newly-formed Justice Movement, led by Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain, failed to win a single National Assembly or provincial assembly seat, but Mr Khan insisted that he would not quit politics.

The poll result stunned even Mr Sharif. It should give his Pakistan Muslim League a two-thirds majority once the final tally is in — enough to change the Constitution to

remove the President's discretion to sack any Prime Minister he dislikes. Removal of the provision, introduced by Pakistan's former military rulers to keep politicians in check, would represent a far-reaching shift in the balance of power.

The lopsided result lent credibility to opposition allegations of official rigging, although this seems to have taken the form of an orchestrated smear campaign and disruptive tactics rather than ballot-tampering.

Mr Sharif reached an absolute majority in the 217-seat National Assembly with only half the votes counted, which was already beyond his greatest expectations, and late last night he passed the 130 mark. Miss Bhutto had around 20 seats as results continued to come in — a humiliating decline in her fortunes.

The arrival of the country's strongest elected Government does not presage political stability, however. Miss Bhutto, formidable in opposition, will

use what street power and other devices she can muster to disrupt the administration, which must make critical and immediate decisions to save the collapsing economy. There could be a damaging confrontation if President Leghari resists any attempt by Mr Sharif to trim his powers: the new Prime Minister may thus shy away from the battle, at least initially.

Pakistan is on the point of defaulting on its international debt, one of a plethora of economic, social and political problems the Government must tackle to rescue its endangered democracy and remove the threat of national disintegration. Forty per cent of the national budget goes on debt repayment; 30 per cent is spent on the armed forces. Almost nobody pays income tax. Last night Mr Sharif listed the economy as his first priority, with law and order the second.

Miss Bhutto claimed there had been a secret deal between Mr Sharif and President Leghari to rig the polls. The result had been "engineered". International observers gave a guarded vindication of the conduct of the election, aware that they could not hope to oversee everything.

Malcolm Fraser, the head of the Commonwealth observers' team, refused to describe the election as "free and fair", but said everybody who wanted to vote was able to.

Mr Sharif promptly twisted the assertion, declaring: "International observers have said categorically the elections were free and fair. Every Pakistani believes that."

Even if there had been electoral fraud it could not have altered the basic outcome: Miss Bhutto was certain to lose, given the extent of disgust with her corrupt Government.



Nawaz Sharif greets supporters in Lahore yesterday

Leading article, page 17

Triumph in Sind for exile party Leader who greased wheels of commerce

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

THE ethnically divided southern province of Sind may have a member of the Mohajir minority as Chief Minister for the first time after the trouncing of Benazir Bhutto.

The Mohajir Qaumi Movement, which represents the Urdu-speaking migrants from India and politically controls Karachi and other urban centres, is likely to form a coalition with the Muslim League and other smaller groups. It is also expected to join the federal Government that will be formed by the Muslim League next week.

It has been a spectacular victory for the movement. Miss Bhutto had accused the MQM of being involved in a mini-insurgency against the state. More than 2,000 people, including government forces, were killed in the armed conflict which paralysed Pakistan's economic and financial lifeline. President Leghari cited extra-judicial killing of MQM activists as one of the reasons for the dismissal of the Bhutto Government.

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

NAWAZ SHARIF was the businessman's friend in his first three-year term as Prime Minister of Pakistan, and his return will be celebrated by factory owners and office executives. But his entrepreneurial instincts and populist tendencies can go disastrously awry: he introduced a publicly subsidised scheme to flood the country with little yellow taxis, wiping out much of its foreign exchange reserves in the process.

The Sharif taxis still ply the nation's cities, their meters long since disconnected by cabbies who find it more profitable to haggle over fares. All owner-drivers are his die-hard supporters, but the phantasm of hard currency is one of his best-remembered acts of reckless populism: handing out land indiscriminately to the landless was another.

He entered politics as a prodigy of the late dictator, General Zia ul-Haq, whose military rule needed a democratic façade. His 1990 electoral victory was doubtless assisted by the army. Since

then, his wealth has grown enormously. His interests include steel (only the state-owned steel industry is bigger), sugar and textiles.

Mr Sharif has won an unprecedented mandate and will not have to offer sophs to the Islamic lobby, to which he pandered in his first term.

His relationship with President Leghari will be crucial for more than two years while in opposition he refused to meet him, regarding the President as "Benazir's man". He had fallen victim to presidential power in 1993, when Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked him for running a corrupt and incompetent government — a dismissal overturned on appeal by the Supreme Court, which found the allegations unsubstantiated. Amid the political chaos he quit anyway, then lost the election.

Last night Mr Sharif was confident of completing a full five-year term. It would be a rare feat. His survival is critical to the credibility of the country's young democracy: if his administration collapses, it might as well.

Civil servants give rights warning

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

IN A challenge to Beijing, Hong Kong's two most senior civil servants have given a warning that China's intention to cut deeply into the colony's Bill of Rights could bring people on to the streets, alarm the United States and repel foreign investors.

As the July handover approaches, each day brings a new demand from Beijing: some of its soldiers should arrive before July and they should be armed; confidential files on civil servants must be handed over before July; high-ranking civil servants must start working for Tung Chee



hwa, Beijing's Chief Executive-designate, before he takes office and they should be loyal to him, not Britain.

Monday night's blunt statement by Anson Chan, the Deputy Governor and Chief Secretary, was a significant counter-punch. Ms Chan was just back from America where, as she put it, she was presenting Hong Kong's "positive side". She had dodged questions on Beijing's intention to repeal those ordinances in the Bill of Rights that permit demonstrations without police permission and let political groups establish links abroad.

These proposals ended the month-long honeymoon between Hong Kong and Mr Tung, appointed in mid-December. He said they were necessary for stability and a defence against international interference. Chris Patten, the Governor, denounced them as a setback to human rights.

Back in the colony, Ms Chan, already confirmed by Mr Tung as his choice for Chief Secretary, said they had

"sent an extremely negative signal to people in America" and cast doubt on the rubric "One country, two systems".

Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, is third in the colony's hierarchy and awaiting Mr Tung's decision to reappoint him in July. Even so, a few days ago he said: "I hope China will make a wise decision and not do something unnecessary... we can't backpedal in Hong Kong. People may take to the streets, some may keep their frustrations in their hearts. Some in the Civil Service may quit. Some may emigrate. Investors are similar... if they aren't happy [with the laws] they will leave."

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A Malaysian fire rescue specialist, Dzhar Hashim, climbs down from the top of the 1,300ft Kuala Lumpur Tower during a rescue exercise yesterday. The training will prepare him and his team-mates for missions at the world's fourth highest skyscraper and other high-rise buildings

Gunmen rob 50 tourists at hostel

FROM JINGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO Britons were among about 50 tourists to South Africa who were robbed by four gunmen at a Johannesburg backpackers' hostel. One of them was beaten and left concussed.

Four black men, carrying an AK47 and handguns, stroled into the Backpackers' Ritz in Dunkeld West, a northern Johannesburg suburb, and ordered guests to assemble in the bar.

The men and women were made to lie down while their valuables were taken. The gang made off with cash, jewellery, passports and airline tickets worth more than 50,000 rands (about £10,000).

Police acknowledged yesterday that news of the robbery, which took place last week, had been withheld because of its "sensitivity", involving as it did a large number of tourists. The high level of violent crime in South Africa — and in the Johannesburg region in particular — has started to affect the important tourist industry.

The English manager of the Backpackers' Ritz, who wished to remain anonymous, said a Briton in his twenties was hit around the head and kicked in the face after he and a companion went behind the bar and carried on drinking. He was taken to hospital suffering from concussion, but was later released.

The other Briton, a woman in her twenties from Wiltshire, returned to the hostel soon after the robbery to find that her bags and camera had been taken.

The Britons and the other tourists — from Australia, France, Canada, America, Japan, Finland, New Zealand, Chile, Venezuela, Belgium, Denmark and Israel — have since left the hostel.

Briton dies in Rwanda ambush

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH human rights monitor working for the United Nations in Rwanda was killed in an ambush, along with a Cambodian colleague and two Rwandan assistants.

In the latest attack blamed yesterday on Hutu extremists.

The team, based in Cyangugu, a hotbed of Hutu extremism, were killed in the remote and hilly commune of Karengera, 150 miles south-west of Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

Last night the names of the dead had not been released. Their bullet-riddled bodies and car were found by other UN monitors sent under an armed guard to investigate their disappearance. An interpreter wounded in the attack was receiving treatment.

The murders are the latest in a campaign of Hutu terrorism directed at foreign aid

workers, which was planned in refugee camps run by the United Nations across the border in Zaire.

According to documents found by *The Times* last November in the main Hutu military camp, which was supplied with food and water by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Hutu soldiers and *Interahamwe* militia had trained for two years under UN protection in Zaire to sow chaos in their homeland when they returned.

The Hutu killers have wasted no time in carrying out their orders since going back to Rwanda in November after two years of voluntary exile. This year there have been three attacks against UN human rights monitors, mainly young law graduates who travel unarmed into dangerous areas to report on rights

violations by Hutus or Tutsis. There have been numerous attacks on Tutsis and moderate Hutus who survived the genocide of 1994 and have been killed to prevent them testifying at war crimes trials in Rwanda and Tanzania.

Other foreigners, vital to the economic and administrative survival of Rwanda's Government, have been targeted. Last month, three Spanish medical workers were murdered in their home and last Sunday a Canadian priest was killed while saying Mass.

In Geneva, José Ayala Lasso, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, denounced the latest attacks and said he had ordered all field workers in Cyangugu, Kibuye and Gisenyi to withdraw to Kigali.

The move will ensure that the UN risks no more lives in

Rwanda's killing fields in the west of the country. But the removal of the human rights monitors leaves the countryside without any independent analysis of living conditions for civilians on both sides of the ethnic divide.

The Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Army is likely to come down hard on Hutu villagers suspected of harbouring extremists. But the Hutus vastly outnumber Tutsis in the west of the country and the latter are again in danger of being wiped out altogether.

The Hutu terrorist plan expressly states that the extermination of Tutsis and the destabilisation of Rwanda are its main objectives. "After this has been achieved, we will be in a position to offer negotiations to the so-called Rwandan Government," the planners wrote.

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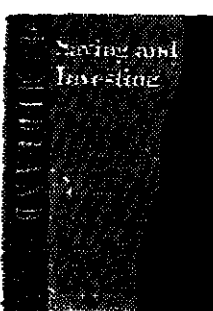
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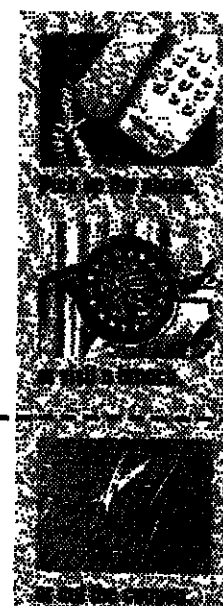
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FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government yesterday launched a newspaper advertising campaign to encourage new Jewish settlers to move to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The full-page advertise-

ment in the Tel Aviv daily *Maariv* infuriated the Arabs. It also upset officials from Britain, America and other Western governments who have spoken of the risks to peace posed by an expansionist settlement policy.

Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, secretary of the Palestinian

Authority led by Yasser Arafat, said: "This shows that the Israeli Government is not serious about peace."

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, argues that expanding the population of existing settlements is not the same as creating new ones.

Kohl lays foundations for rule from Berlin

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday put aside his domestic problems and started to dig.

It was supposed to be no more than a gentle stab with a shovel to mark the spot in Berlin from whence Germany will be governed.

Instead, shielded from the wind by a battery of photographers, the German leader dug and dug as if tunnelling to freedom. Sweat trickled down his red brow and, for the first time in many weeks, he seemed a happy man.

The Berlin chancellery, to be built in a desolate field not far from Hitler's former offices, should be ready by the spring of 2000, the unasked question at yesterday's ceremony was whether Herr Kohl would be the first tenant.

He has certainly left his mark on the design of Axel Schultes and Charlotte Frank, just as he has been blocking and approving other blueprints for the once and future capital. The new chancellery was supposed to have colonnades, pillars and a big round glass window like the magnified eye of an insect.

Herr Kohl has sealed down the project, which will still cost £150 million, and now claims that the "building will exude self-confidence, modesty and dignity". This, say political observers, is how the Chancellor sees himself.

The future political hub of Berlin has not been given over to a modern-day Baron

Hausmann, the planner of Paris. It will be a hotch-potch of styles, mainly adapting buildings that have survived the war and communism.

But the Chancellor's touch is everywhere. He threw out the idea of a large slab-like Holocaust memorial in the centre of the city ("I want something less massive, less monumental"); he also argued that the East Berlin Palace of the Republic should be stripped down to its steel frame and rebuilt as a real palace. He likes Sir Norman Foster's design for the Reichstag — but could not stand the idea of the Bulgarian artist Christo wrapping it up in silver fabric.

The Chancellor resists criticism that he wants to create a kind of "Kohlopolis". His intention is merely that the outward appearance of the Berlin Republic projects the

right message. The local architect Daniel Goessler argues that there is no point in trying to shape a unified style for Berlin as it builds on the former East-West death strip: "The best town is organised like a circus — anarchic in its detail." Anything more tightly organised might carry echoes of Hitler and his planner, Albert Speer.

In the 18th century, the spot where Herr Kohl buried his shovel yesterday was a wood-storage area and a place to exercise horses. Gradually it became an entertainment centre while, across the road, politicians and civil servants began to build houses around the Reichstag.

In 1938, the Nazis started to rip down these and other buildings: Speer had been commissioned to build a grand Hall of the People for

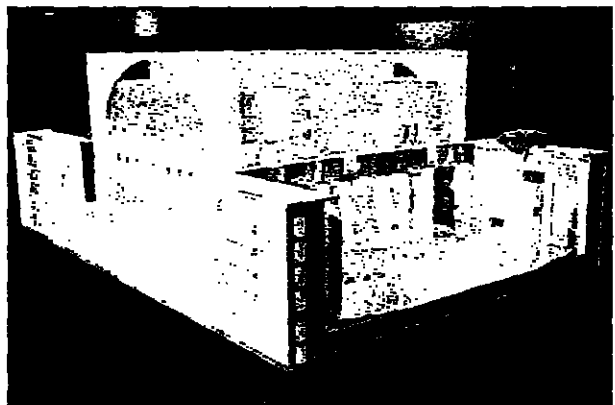
Hitler's "World Capital Germania". Allied bombing put an end to these, and other, fantasies. The only building to survive the air raids was the Swiss Embassy.

Herr Kohl faces a general election in October next year. For the first time, leading members of his Christian Democratic Union — and more important, the young up-and-coming generation — are openly beginning to doubt whether he can carry it off again.

The chaos of simultaneously introducing tax, welfare, pension and health reforms, honouring promises to create two million jobs, abandon the German mark and move the capital to Berlin, has sapped the credibility of the German leader.

His party is no longer afraid of criticising him and the German electorate seems to be staying true to Herr Kohl only because the Social Democrats present such an anemic alternative. Three times over the past week, the Chancellor's advisers have alerted insiders to a major fightback speech from their boss. On each occasion, the Chancellor produced a damp squib.

By 2000, "Kohlopolis" may well be inhabited not only by different politicians but also by a different generation, for whom Berlin is an entirely normal city, like London or New York — a metropolis not weighed down by recent history.



A model of the building, due for completion in 2000



Helmut Kohl inaugurates work on the new Berlin chancellery yesterday

Holocaust victims in line for Nazi gold

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and America have halted the distribution of \$68 million (£41 million) of Nazi gold locked in their bank vaults for 50 years, and are proposing instead to use the money to set up a Holocaust fund for concentration camp victims.

The change, announced in Washington by Stuart Eizenstat, the US Secretary of Commerce, comes after intense lobbying by Jewish organisations which do not want the gold to be given to the claimant governments of the European countries looted by the Nazis.

The Clinton Administration believes there is evidence that some of the gold, melted down into ingots, belonged to death camp inmates or was taken from victims' teeth.

Britain had insisted until recently that it was unable to hand over the gold directly to a Holocaust fund because the allocation of the remaining money had already been agreed. Last year Britain said that with the agreement to hand over to Albania gold held in the Bank of England, the way was clear for the final distribution of the five tonnes held in the Bank. Officials said they hoped the distribution could be completed by the end of the year.

In the face of intense lobbying, however, Britain, France and America, which jointly control the remaining gold through the Tripartite Gold Commission, have looked again at their archives. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, last year said he was sympathetic to calls for the setting up of a fund for Holocaust survivors.

Greville Janner, MP, the chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, has been the leading campaigner to have the money paid directly to the victims. He said yesterday that Mr Eizenstat assured him that American support early last month and he was "over the moon". He said he was very proud of this successful campaign.

President Chirac has also promised French support for a Holocaust fund.

Leading article, page 17

Brussels finance chief launches charm offensive against sceptics

FROM CHARLES BREMMER
IN BRUSSELS



De Silguy: soothing

BRITAIN will decide to join monetary union once it is clearly explained and the public understands that it offers the best hope of competing in the world economy, according to the European Union Commissioner responsible for the project.

Jean-Claude Trichet, the Commission's chief of economic and financial affairs, will make his case in a delicate foray today into Britain's pre-electoral battleground to preach the gospel of the imminent euro. The British, he will argue, should understand that monetary

union is not a federalist Trojan horse, but a necessity to give Europe more muscle in global trade.

"I think the British will come round to it," he told *The Times*. "The question is whether it is better to get on to the train before it starts or when it's already moving."

M de Silguy wants to avoid "pouring oil on the fire" of Britain's internal quarrels over EMU when he meets Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor and Gordon Brown, his Labour shadow, in London later this week.

"But if there is any message I will pass on, it is that you should not believe that everything is decided in Brussels and that Brussels imposes

everything," he said. "I am not a blind Euro-federalist," he added. Giving up the national currency was an economic necessity. "It is not because we are making the euro that we are going to abandon our national sovereignty."

There was an irony, he noted, in the fact that British officials had contributed the best work in the EU's preparations for the birth of the euro, providing, in his estimate, over 50 per cent of the input. "We risk building a Jaguar to have it driven by the Germans and French and others," he joked. He made no comment on a likely date for British entry, but the standard wisdom across Europe holds that neither a

Conservative nor Labour government would take Britain into EMU at its birth.

M de Silguy said others could probably do nothing to stop countries within monetary union from co-ordinating policies more closely on taxation and other fields if they so decided. The idea, which springs from a Franco-German drive for a more "flexible" union, has emerged in negotiations to revamp the Maastricht treaty.

Despite alarmist reports, there was no question of trying to harmonise income tax, an area which falls outside the EU treaty, the Commissioner noted. He also dismissed talk of a secret Franco-

German pact on a "stability council" that would run the future euro zone.

Full of praise for the British as "the most mature in Europe", M de Silguy wants Britain to understand that, despite what British politicians have been saying, the single currency will be launched on time, respecting the Maastricht rules, on January 1, 1999. The political will of Europe's leaders made this inevitable.

The improving performance of European economies made him more optimistic over the prospects of a successful EMU launch now than he was a year ago, said M de Silguy. He would not be drawn on the growing opposition in Germany to Italy's acceptance as a member.

Gull war has Rock recruiting in Spain

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN GIBRALTAR

NOT for the first time, Gibraltar is under siege. But the new invaders are already on the Rock, and have taken over every available nesting space on its 2.25 sq miles.

The numbers of yellow-legged gull, *Larus cachinnans*, are put conservatively at more than 35,000 — and rising — compared with a mere 27,000 people.

According to John Cortes, general secretary of the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society, "the gulls now nest almost anywhere". He added: "They have extended far beyond the cliffs in the Upper Rock, and have now taken over roofs and treetops." The yellow-legged gull, he points out, does not nest in trees anywhere else.

So obtrusive has their presence become that the local authorities will shortly introduce a scheme to bring in red foxes and ravens from Spain that share an appetite for gulls' eggs.

The RAF, fearing mid-air collisions with the gulls, already organises an annual gun salute. Captain Alasdair Balmorie, of the British Forces Headquarters, said that about 14,000 eggs were destroyed last year.

There is a mid-air collision almost every month, on average. Captain Balmorie said that the RAF uses flares and plays tapes of gull distress calls on loudspeakers to clear the runway and airspace before a plane lands or takes off.

Most Gibraltarians have more humdrum concerns. They have stopped going up to their roofs because of aggressive nesting gulls. Rubbish put out for collection is festooned upon, leaving streets strewn with debris. And droppings — those of the yellow-legged gull are particularly rich in phosphoric acid — damage car paintwork.

"Gibraltar has become a yellow-legged gull colony, with a few people thrown in," complained Dr Cortes.



Bulgarian opposition protesters signal victory beside a Sofia barricade yesterday as the ruling Socialists agreed to elections in early April, giving way to protests against their plans to form a new Government that have paralysed the country

Doubt over Milosevic vow to recognise poll results

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

THE Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) last night reacted cautiously to a move by Serbia's President Milosevic that appeared to signal a readiness to accept opposition election victories.

Mr Milosevic yesterday told Mirko Marjanovic, the Serbian Prime Minister, to pass a special law in parliament accepting the OSCE's December report, which said the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition, won Belgrade and 13 other cities.

But the OSCE said from its Vienna headquarters that it was essential to recognise the results. "Laws are not necessary for that." While immediate reinstatement of the results would be a first step, "further steps towards democratisation and dialogue with the opposition are essential," the statement added.

The mood of the 50,000 protesters gathered in Republic Square, Belgrade, yesterday was hardly euphoric, and the Zajedno leadership, which received the news of the apparent concession halfway through its city rally, gave a

warning that demonstrations must continue. "We will not give up and disperse until they verify all the election results," Zoran Djindjic, leader of the Democratic Party, told the crowd. "Our goal is not just recognition but changing the system, which is based on lies and cheating."

In addition, he demanded reforms of the media and election laws in Serbia, and for police involved in Monday's beatings of demonstrators to be brought to justice.

The police later resumed their heavy-handed behaviour, and barged protesters into side streets with their riot shields. No injuries were reported.

There were also signs yesterday that Mr Milosevic remains determined to consolidate his power by whatever means at his disposal.

The Times learned from sources in the Interior Ministry that up to 1,000 military police reservists are being mobilised for duty in the capital. Meanwhile, in his eternal obsession with media control, the President revoked

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He couldn't even change his bedsheets without a shrink, former lover tells TV interviewer

I shared Woody with psychiatrist, says Mia Farrow



Soon-Yi: news of her affair "fell like an axe"

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

WOUNDING disclosures about Woody Allen, the American film-maker, are to be made by his ex-lover and muse, Mia Farrow. They include the claim that their relationship was complicated, like the Prince and Princess of Wales, by a third party — however, not a lover but Mr Allen's psychiatrist.

Miss Farrow, a wait-like actress whose relationship with Mr Allen crumbled horribly after he fell in love with her young adopted daughter, Soon-Yi, has given an interview which will be broadcast on American television on Friday. At the very least, it is likely to send the unfortunate Mr Allen back to his shrink for yet more analysis.

In the interview, a "tranquil" Miss Farrow will tell Barbara Walters, her sympathetic inquisitor, that there were effectively three people in her affair with Mr Allen, whom she calls "a very, very analysed man". So obsessed was he by his Manhattan psychiatrist, says Miss Farrow, that he would not even

buy mundane household items, such as bedroom linen, without discussing the matter at length on the psychiatrist's couch.

Mr Allen's film characters encapsulate the twitchy New Yorker who is bound inextricably to Freud, Jung and similar figures. It is a caricature the bespectacled actor-director has perfected over more than two decades. All too many New Yorkers, many of them quite sane, make regular visits to a shrink. It is hard to say if Mr Allen's films portrayed real life, or if real life has emulated his art.

In his own life, according to past accounts, Mr Allen is a more composed personality. Interviewers have long found him to be a creature of self-control, with a well-creased daily routine, a life of cardigan comforts and a sure view of his artistic aims. The disenchanted Miss Farrow, who has reportedly been much pained by the outside world's general tolerance of his affair with young Soon-Yi and his own apparent lack of embar-



Couch potato: Woody Allen and Mia Farrow in the film *Husbands and Wives*. "We're talking about 40 years of therapy," she says

assment, offers a different view. "He had polyester sheets and I wanted to get cotton," she tells Miss Walters. "He discussed it with his shrink many times before he made the switch. And he's been in therapy since he was like 19, so we're talking about 40 years of therapy."

She also dwells sorrowfully on Mr Allen's failure to marry her during their 12-year relationship. Throughout it, they maintained separate homes on opposite sides of the island of Manhattan.

Miss Farrow, 52, whose broken loves have included marriages to Frank Sinatra and André Previn, said Mr Allen had a peculiar loathing of pink. She says he becomes "quite angry" at people who wear the colour. He prefers them to clothe themselves in the greys, browns and off-whites that he wears mostly.

When she found out about his love for Soon-Yi she was "shocked; it was like an axe fell through me. I was totally traumatised". Miss Farrow, who said she still loves Frank Sinatra, told Miss Walters she would not find it easy ever to trust anyone again.

Filming of the ABC 20-20 interview with Miss Farrow took place at her house in Connecticut. She appeared relaxed, wore a casual sweater and jeans and, according to a goody Miss Walters, "radiated warmth" during their discussion, despite the chilly nature of her disclosures.

Soccer boss Tapie must stay in jail

Paris: Bernard Tapie, the bankrupt former politician and soccer boss, lost an appeal in the Supreme Court against an eight-month jail sentence for rigging a football match. The ruling means that Tapie, convicted of bribery and interfering with witnesses, must stay in prison. He turned himself in to Paris's La Santé jail on Monday night.

Tapie's lawyer, Jean-Yves Lénard, told reporters his client would immediately resign from the European Parliament before the Strasbourg-based assembly can strip him of his seat at the French Government's request on February 17. The conviction for rigging involved a 1993 first division match between his Marseille club and rivals Valenciennes, a few days before his team won the 1993 European Cup. Lawyers say he may be entitled to serve most of his sentence at an open prison, spending only the nights in a cell and being allowed out by day to work in his new profession as an actor. (Reuters)

'No risk' in nuclear crash

Paris: French officials insist there is no health threat from a train carrying radioactive material which was derailed in eastern France on its way to Britain (Ben Macintyre writes). The train, belonging to British Nuclear Fuels, came off the rails near the border with Luxembourg and Germany at Schengen. It was carrying 18 spent nuclear fuel elements from the Lingao power station in Lower Saxony which were destined for the reprocessing plant at Sellafield. Emergency workers sealed off the immediate area as a precaution, but decided against evacuating the nearby town of Aachen after tests were carried out and no radiation leaks or abnormal radiation levels were detected.

Call for Eta talks rejected

Madrid: A rift opened up yesterday between Spain's conservative Government and its Basque nationalist partners after Xabier Arzalluz, the Basque nationalist leader, called on Madrid to start immediate negotiations with the separatist group Eta (Tuniki Varadarajan writes). The nationalists' call was rejected outright by Jaime Mayor Oreja, the Spanish Interior Minister. Reacting to the Basque demand, Señor Mayor said: "Such a move would be a slap in the face of our security forces, and of all democratic people in this country. There is simply no way that we can agree to talk to Eta."

Simpson mistrial denied

Los Angeles: The judge in the O. J. Simpson civil case denied a defence request to declare a mistrial on the grounds that a dismissed juror had tainted the entire panel. Mr Simpson's lead attorney, Robert Baker, argued that the juror, who was removed on Friday for failing to disclose her daughter's employment in the district attorney's office, could have prejudiced other members of the panel. Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki replaced Rosemary Caraway, the only black member of the jury, with an Asian-American man and ordered the panel to start deliberating from scratch. (Reuters)

Yeltsin signals crime purge

Moscow: President Yeltsin yesterday promoted his Interior Minister, Anatoli Kutikov, to Deputy Prime Minister with special responsibility for economic crime, in a move to show Russians that he is in control after months of illness and determined to deal with one of the country's main problems (Robin Lodge writes). General Kutikov, 50, regarded as one of the leading hawks in the Kremlin, has frequently declared his determination to crack down on crime.

Mormon had sex with girl

Los Angeles: A prominent Mormon who used to host a religious chat show on family values has been jailed for tricking a 14-year-old girl into undressing and performing a sex act (Giles Whittell writes). Amid claims that Lloyd Pond, 51, was treated leniently as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, he was sentenced to from one to 15 years.

Albright finds Jewish roots in records of death camps

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ALMOST 58 years after her parents sent Madeleine Albright to London from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, the new American Secretary of State has discovered that her family was not only Jewish but that three grandparents were killed in the Holocaust.

The disclosures — based on documents in German, Czech and Jewish archives and lists of those deported to Auschwitz — were presented to Ms Albright during an interview with *The Washington Post*.

They are almost certain to provoke further accusations of partisanship from Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace process.

Raised as a Roman Catholic and now an Episcopalian, the first female Secretary of State said her father and mother never discussed their Jewish background or the fate of more than a dozen relatives who were merely said to have died "during the war".

"The only thing I have to go by is what my mother and father told me," said Ms



Albright: Arab doubts

Albright, 59, who was said to have found the new information "fairly compelling".

The documents show that her close relatives who remained in Czechoslovakia during the Second World War, including her grandparents, an uncle, aunt and a first cousin all died in Nazi concentration camps. Some were gassed at Auschwitz, others died of typhoid and malnutrition at a holding camp at Terezin.

Born in Prague as Maria Jana Korbel, she was almost

two when her parents whisked her out of the country in March 1939. Her father, Josef Korbel, is thought to have embraced Roman Catholicism with the advent of the approaching Nazi armies and apparently never discussed the matter with his daughter or her siblings.

"I have always thought of myself as a Czechoslovak Catholic," she said in yesterday's interview.

Ms Albright has acknowledged in recent weeks that she had received numerous letters since her appointment as US Ambassador to the United Nations in 1993 which suggested that her family was of Jewish origin. But other facts in the letters apparently were often erroneous.

It first became an issue for her future job in December when certain Arab newspapers cited reports of her Jewish background as the basis for attacking her nomination as Secretary of State. As UN Ambassador, Ms Albright's strong support for Israel brought fierce accusations of partisanship from the Arab world.

Top soldier denies sex allegation

New York: The US Army's top enlisted soldier stands accused of sexual harassment by a former female colleague after allegedly embracing her and requesting sexual intercourse (Quentin Letts writes).

The charges against Sergeant-Major Gene McKinney, 46, were forcefully denied, but they add to a sense of crisis in the military over alleged unfairness to women and young recruits.

That the latest allegations should involve the holder of the top NCO title of "Sergeant Major of the Army" is an acute embarrassment, not least because he sits on a commission which is investigating army policies on sexual bullying. He was granted temporary leave of absence from the commission.

The charges against him were made by former Sergeant-Major Brenda Hoster, 39, a "public affairs specialist" who left the army last summer and now works in a dental surgery. She claims that the incident happened while she was on army business in Hawaii, staying at a hotel.

Clinton embarks on schools crusade

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON used last night's State of the Union speech to present himself as American children's best hope for a world-class education.

Standing before a Republican-led Congress on Capitol Hill, he said that government had entered a "profoundly new era" and that both parties would have to work together to save the nation's decaying schools and haul its finances back into balance.

The speech gave Mr Clinton a second chance to lay out the grand themes of his second term, two weeks after an inaugural speech that reached a few high notes on America's quest for social harmony, but was widely thought to descend into unrealistic rhetoric about America's prospects in the 21st century.

The speech, together with tomorrow's budget, is intended to drive home the message that education will be the "number one priority" of the second term. In an appeal to all social groups, Mr Clinton has portrayed education as the best solution to racial prob-

lems, and the best underpinning for future economic growth.

The budget will include plans to spend \$50 billion (£31 billion) over five years on schools and on tax credits to make it easier for families to pay for college education. The White House hopes that the policies are now so entrenched in public expectations that they are safe from Republican attack.

Republicans picked the hugely popular J. C. Watts, a black congressman from Oklahoma, to give the official response: a sharply contrasting message that the solution to Americans' problems lies in their own efforts, not in government. Republicans hope that Mr Watts, the only black Republican in Congress and a widely respected speaker, will successfully have countered Mr Clinton's appeal to all social and racial groups.

In a CBS News poll yesterday, 62 per cent of respondents said they thought that Congress should investigate allegations over Democratic fundraising practices.

Accused tried to blow hole in case

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A BIZARRE bombing campaign that terrorised a San Francisco working-class suburb has been thwarted with the arrest of a small-time gangster who wished to destroy his criminal records, police say.

Kevin Robinson, 29, was arrested on Monday in Vallejo, California, and charged with planting dynamite bombs that wrecked two cash-point machines at a local bank and holed a building housing court records.

Mr Robinson, a cocaine dealer and part-time rap promoter known locally as Big Kev, apparently feared his forthcoming trial on a drug-dealing charge would end in a life sentence because of California's "three strikes and you're out" law.

"He wanted to blow up a number of criminal justice facilities," Robert Nichelini, Vallejo's police chief, said. "In his thought process he believed he could somehow stop his trial."

Mr Robinson was arrested after explosives experts and dogs from the FBI and the US Air Force found 444lb of dynamite at locations in Vallejo, including 61 sticks in an alleged accomplice's car.

Nobody was hurt in the pre-dawn bombings, but instead of a single drugs charge and the possibility of clemency, on the ground that the "three strikes" law is too harsh, Mr Robinson faces federal explosives and conspiracy charges — and the virtual certainty of a life sentence.



Helms: threatening to block weapons treaty

President 'hostage' to Helms

Washington: Jesse Helms, the hardline Republican head of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is threatening to block America from joining an international treaty to ban chemical weapons unless the Clinton Administration toughens its stance in many foreign policy areas (Bronwen Maddox writes).

Mr Helms plans to hold the White House and Democrats hostage over issues where he feels American interests are threatened or too easily surrendered. He says "priorities" such as forcing the United Nations to reform and cut costs should come before the treaty.

In a letter on Monday to Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, Mr Helms said it "is fraught with deficiencies totally inimical to national security interests".

The treaty has been signed by 161 countries and ratified by 68, three more than is needed for it to take effect. If the US has not ratified it by April 29, it will be barred from participating and exports may be threatened.



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frilling!

Flirty, feminine: a ruffled shirt is a must-have for the summer. Style Editor Grace Bradberry picks five of the prettiest



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Neil McCallum's *Midnight Owl* from Ehrman Tapestry



Neil McCallum's charming new design would be an ideal kit for a beginner. It is printed on a 7 holes to the inch canvas, using Appleton wool stitched double and has only 12 colours. With clearly defined blocks of colour it is an easy pattern to follow and quick to finish in either half-cross or tent stitch. The owl in soft browns and taupe sits on his branch silhouetted against a mountainous background lit by a full harvest moon. The picture is framed by a border of oak leaves and acorns. The design itself measures 15.5" x 15.5" and the Appleton yarn is 100% pure new wool. The kit costs £37.00 including postage and packing, and comes complete with canvas, wool, needle, instruction leaflet and a black and white symbol chart for cross-reference. When ordering use FREEPOST - no stamp is needed.

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There's nothing frivolous about ruffles and flounces

IT HAS been a very, very long time since a girl could be seen wearing a frill about her person anywhere outside the privacy of her own boudoir. The very word frill, with its echoes of frivolous and silly, conjures a flock of dire images — beefy Sloane Rangers with blonde heads perched, lamb cutlet-style, on stripey pie-crust ruffling; the sad, crumpled swagging of the Princess of Wales's meringue-in-a-thunderstorm wedding dress; the bunched festoon blinds which, with their lascivious whiff of underwear, disfigured so many Georgian windows in the mid-Eighties...

Dear oh dear, no wonder the modern woman recoils from anything so kitsch, favouring instead a wardrobe full of neutral Armani and monochrome Calvin Klein.



JANE SHILLING GETS DRESSED

These days, simplicity equals Being Taken Seriously, and frills don't get a look-in even at the glamour end of the market. Hollywood is full of high-powered actresses who call their children things like Scooter and Bunch, and give interviews about what tom-boys they were as children, always up a maple tree in their brothers' clothes while Ma stood forlornly brandishing a much-despised party frock. The accompanying party frock. The accompanying photographs usually show these

actresses dressed for day in a pair of blue denim dungarees quite capacious enough to accommodate Bunch and Scooter and probably their father as well. To collect her Oscar, the Serious Actress wears backless and sideless dove velvet Donna Karan or Tom Ford in shades of Tootsie and Industrial Waste. What she never, ever wears (unless, of course, she has landed a part in the latest Jane Austen adaptation), is a frill.

This decade-long dearth of

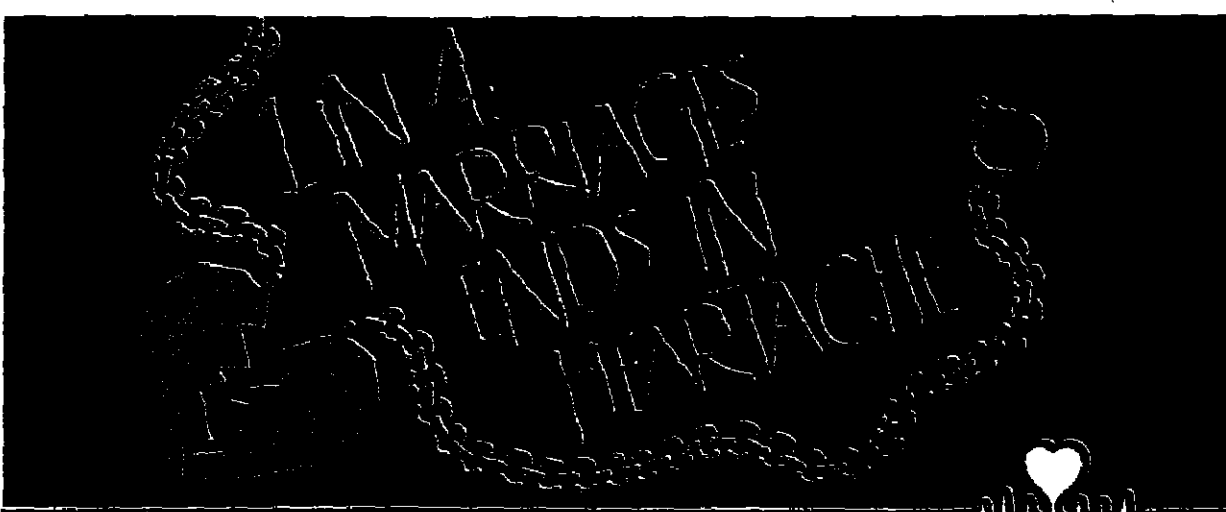
ruffles has been a terrible time for girls such as Dame Barbara Cartland and Dolly Parton and La Cicciolina and myself, who have a leaning towards the fancy. Just as it did not occur to me to christen my child Scooter (in fact I was with some difficulty restrained from calling him Fabrice Octavian Lucien Serge), so, from childhood onwards, given the choice between a simple column of navy crepe and a cream Gina Fratini spouting rivulets of lace, I'd take the Fratini every time.

This is not to say, of course, that I have nothing on which to look back, with shame. Anyone who spent their adolescence in the Seventies has a horrid *oubliette* filled with off-the-shoulder flounced cheese-cloth blouses and floral peasant skirts and Gypsy-

style eveningwear. But at the back of my cupboard is a blouse by the old couture house of Paquin that is in itself an apologia for the ruffle. In grey silk with rose-pink dots, it has a ruffled neckline cut just below the hollow of the throat and curved cuffs that fall to the finger-tips. Even hanging in the dismal Oxford shop where I discovered it, it had the indefinable sexiness of a deeply feminine garment. I am enchanted to find, ten years

on, that its moment has come round again. The puritans will be back, of course, with their classic neutrals and masculine tailoring. But while the summer of the ruffle lasts, I intend to make the most of it.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Karl Grant
Stylist: Catherine Haricotte
Make-up and hair: Pascal Marin, Model: Elisabeth Models One



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